



The Magnolia Knight

Serving the Mississippi Jurisdiction of the Knights of Columbus

Volume XXI Issue III

March 2018

From the desk of the State Deputy, Noel Aucoin

*"Strengthening
Catholic Families."*

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Anderson**

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Brothers,

Greetings to you all. As Lent begins, so does our fish fries. But, it's much more than that. As many of us commit to raising funds for the Bishop Gerow, Bishop Houck, Culture of Life and many other causes, we dedicate this time of year to not only "giving up things" but we also "give back". Lent is a time for reflecting and fasting. It could also be a time to dedicate the season to Evangelization. The best opportunity, as Knights, that we have to evangelize is to introduce more

Catholic men to the work of our great order. Lent is the time of year when RCIA candidates are brought into the Parish community. Why stop there? Lent can be a time to welcome new Knights into your Council community. This is one of our most visible times of the year. Use your fund raisers as membership drives. Display brochures, use the KofC placemats on your tables and have someone dedicated to greeting potential members. Make sure it's a Brother Knight who can answer questions about the order.

As we move into Lent, we also get even closer to the annual State Convention. This year's convention will be held in Biloxi, April 27-29 at the Golden Nugget hotel. Many Councils have already registered their delegates, reserved hotel rooms and purchased Convention booklet ads. If you haven't, I urge you to do so as soon as possible. When registering your hotel room, use code S187109 to receive the convention rate. The cost of the meeting rooms and facilities is based on achieving a minimum room occupancy, so please get your reservations in. If you have ever sponsored a State Convention then you know that booklet ads are the difference between breaking even and losing money. We can accept your ads up to March 15. That's when we must go to print. We will accept ads from Councils, Assemblies, Auxiliaries, Parishes and Catholic businesses. PLEASE get those in. Forms can be found on the State website. I will again include the Convention Check List in this newsletter, for your convenience.

Convention time also brings us to the end of the State Fraternal Year. If you have not loaded your Council activities in the Activity Database please do so. It can be found on the State Website and is where, State Program Director, Kenny Gonzales, will gather his award data. Forms for Council(s) of the Year, Knight of the Year and Family of the Year can also be located on the site. Now is the time to get those in. It is also time to consider serving in a State capacity. It is time to submit your resolutions and intent to run for State office. To aid you in your future endeavors, we will be holding a District Deputies training session during the Convention. If you have ever considered stepping up as a DD but didn't know what it could involve, I urge you to sit in on this session.

I look forward to seeing you all in April. Be looking for preliminary Convention agendas in upcoming Magnolia Knight Issues.

God Bless,

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!”

The 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 Spiritual Springtime

2/1/2018

The Lenten practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving can renew our lives in Christ

Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori



THE MERE MENTION of Lent can sometimes seem dismal, like a long, dreary day. Lent consists, in fact, of 40 days and 40 nights of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Who can endure it?

Yet the word “Lent” does not pertain to darkness or despair. Quite the opposite. The original meaning of the word actually has to do with springtime. When Lent begins, it’s winter. But by the time Lent concludes, the days are growing longer and the forsythias are in bloom. Even if there is an unseasonal snow shower, we take heart knowing that winter is having its last gasp.

Lent, then, represents a new springtime in our spiritual lives. It’s a time when the darkness of sin gives way to a new light of grace.

SEASON OF RENEWAL

Three analogies might help us see Lent in terms of a spiritual springtime.

First, just as we do spring cleaning, washing away the dirt and grime that accumulates during the winter months, so too Lent is a time for cleansing our souls and our hearts, making them a beautiful dwelling place for the Lord.

Or to use another comparison, spring is the season when farmers clear the land of debris and till the soil, thus giving the seeds they plant every chance to germinate. So, too, in Lent we are to clear the soil of our hearts from the debris of sin and the deadwood of hatred; by spiritual discipline, we till and enrich the soil of our souls so that the seed of God’s Word, planted in us at baptism, will germinate and grow.

Finally, in winter, we sometimes feel poorly due to indoor pollutants that contaminate the air we breathe. When the weather grows warmer, we open windows to let in fresh air. Just the thought of getting out of the house and taking a walk makes us feel better. But isn’t it true that we sometimes “insulate” our hearts? When we become self-centered, we close the windows of our soul to God’s love and the needs of others. Then the spiritual air we breathe becomes stuffy, even polluted, with self-pity, impurity, anger, grudges and thoughts of revenge. Lent is a time to open the windows of our souls, to allow the fresh air of God’s love to circulate anew in the depths of our hearts and to get ourselves moving outward — toward our brothers and sisters who are in need.

Once we look at the season of Lent as the herald of a new springtime in our spiritual lives, Lenten practices are no longer unwelcome intrusions into our comfort. Rather, they become harbingers of hope for a more Christ-centered way of life. These penitential practices are indicators and tools of God’s mercy — mercy that is always available to us. Divine Mercy has the power to transform our way of life. With this perspective in mind, let’s briefly review the three principal Lenten practices, with our eyes fixed on the goal of renewed spiritual joy and greater holiness of life.

THE PRACTICE OF FAITH

Let's begin with prayer, or conversation with God. There are many ways to pray, but let's concentrate on one: silent, mental prayer, when we are alone with God and his voice echoes in our hearts. Such prayerful solitude requires us to turn off all our electronic devices, block out distractions and simply ask the Lord to let us see ourselves as he sees us. This is more than self-awareness. It is asking the Lord to help us measure our lives according to his standards, not our own. It is humbly asking the Lord for grace and strength to confront our overt sins as well as the hidden corruption that we often conceal from others and even from ourselves.

I don't know about you, but when I pray in this way, I find I'm well short of the mark. Such prayer leads me to seek the Lord's mercy and to make an unburdening confession of my sins. Lent is preeminently the time to grow in prayer and to receive the sacrament of reconciliation. This is a first and essential step in spiritual housecleaning.

A second Lenten practice is fasting or some other form of self-denial. This isn't the same as dieting. Rather, depriving ourselves of food is connected with the arduous process of emptying ourselves of everything that obstructs the grace of God from working in us and through us. Fasting has a way of helping us uproot our deep-seated habits of sin and our endless desire for comfort, convenience, power and esteem. The discipline of foregoing food or other comforts is a way of tilling the soil of our souls, making them receptive to God's Word.

A final Lenten practice is almsgiving, which includes giving of ourselves and our resources to those who are in need. The practice of charity is how we open the windows of our souls to God's love, forgetting our own wants and needs and concentrating instead on the needs of others, especially the poor and vulnerable. When we open our hearts in love to those in need, the stale air of self-centeredness dissipates as the fresh air of Jesus' self-giving love circulates through our inmost being, and we are thus spiritually reinvigorated. For us as Knights, this practice of charity should be second nature.

Prayer, fasting and almsgiving are, in fact, inseparable. As St. Peter Chrysologus (+450) taught: "Fasting is the soul of prayer, almsgiving is the lifeblood of fasting. ... When you fast, see the fasting of others. If you want God to know you are hungry, know that another is hungry. If you want mercy, show mercy."

In this way, may our Lenten observance lead us to experience a renewed life in Christ and joy in the Holy Spirit.

Mississippi Retired Religious Funds.

In 2016, at the 112th Annual State Convention of the Mississippi Knights of Columbus a resolution was passed. Our State Council established a fund to help the needs of retired Catholic priests, brothers and sisters who have served in Mississippi. This fund is now known as the Bishop William R. Houck Mississippi Retired Religious Fund.

Some years ago, a fund was established for Diocesan priests serving in Mississippi. It has been determined that this retirement fund is underfunded by an estimated \$1,000,000!

A Retirement Fund for Religious was established in 1986 for retired Catholic religious and is sponsored by the Conference of Major Superiors of Men, Council of Major Superiors of Women, Leadership Conference of Women Religious, and the USCCB.


In 2014, of 548 religious communities submitting data to the National Religious Retirement Office, only 40 were adequately funded for retirement; 203 were 20% or less funded.

The Houck Fund is disbursed by the State Treasurer in two checks, 80% is donated to the fund for the Mississippi Diocesan Priests and 20% will be donated to the fund for Religious. In May 2017 (our first) the donation to the MS Fund was about \$5,500.

In 2018 there will be another resolution proposed to again place 50% of the Knights of Columbus specialty car tag proceeds into the Houck Fund. Of the approximately \$33 cost per year, the State Council gets all but \$8 back. As of January 2018, we had sold less than 800 of these car tags with over 7,000 members in the state. Another great way to help, please get your KC license plate today!

Brothers and fellow convention goers,

There are specific activities that should be completed prior to and included in your convention agenda, when preparing for the event. To assist you, I've created a Convention Check List. I'm looking forward to seeing you all down on the coast.



Noel Aucoin
State Deputy

All form 100's submitted to Supreme

All programs recorded in the State Programs Report Database

Best Activity forms completed and submitted to programs@kofc-ms.org

Best Vocations Project Form submitted to programs@kofc-ms.org

Best Council write-up completed and submitted to programs@kofc-ms.org

Family of the Year form completed and submitted to programs@kofc-ms.org

Knight of the Year form completed and submitted to programs@kofc-ms.org

Convention registration complete (including the Ladies' Luncheon!!)

Convention Ad placed by Council/Assembly/Ladies Auxiliary/Squires Circle

Delegate slips filled out, printed and sealed by the Financial Secretary

Necrology form filled out and submitted

GK, DD, State Chairman and State Officer reports submitted to: philipjabour@bellsouth.net or

Philip Jabour, P.O. Box 5489 Brandon, MS 39047

**Message from Bryan V. Cassagne
State Membership Director**

Worthy Brothers,

It has been an honor and a privilege to have served as your State Membership Director the last two years. At this year's convention, I intend to run for the office of State Warden. If you were to support me, I would be very much appreciative. I pledge to work just as hard as I have as Membership Director to grow our Order and our Domestic Church as your Warden.

I have been an active member for most of my twenty-six years as a Knight because I believe in what we do and because I love our Church. Please consider me for your next State Warden and I will give you everything I have in return.

In Service to Christ,

Bryan V. Cassagne
State Membership Director

Worthy Grand Knights and FS's,

I have a few reminders for our annual State Convention.

Remember to elect and submit your delegates and alternates. To submit them, go to the State Website and list them on line. When you finish, there is an option to print out delegate slips. Print this out and have the FS validate them. You will need to bring the delegate and alternate slips with you to the Convention.

Please go to www.kofc-ms.org and in the upper right-hand corner in the blue box you can register delegates, alternates and Necrology. You can also purchase a convention book advertisement. Please buy an advertisement and send it in early.

The Necrology has to be registered on the website. Even if you notified me when the Brother Knight passed away, this is the list that we will use at the Mass. Please have them registered online by 4/01/18. If we receive them after 4/1, they probably will not be listed in the Mass bulletin, but we will do our best to read their name at the Mass.

Remember to make sure you have paid your Per Capita bill that went out in January. Supreme will not let us seat delegates if the Council has not paid your Per Capita to the State and Supreme. Thanks to all the Councils that have already taken care of this. I will send a list out closer to the convention of the Councils that have not paid.

If you have not registered for the convention you can do that at the State website also. You can register your spouse for the Ladies luncheon, the Past State Deputy luncheon, and the DD luncheon there also.

Please register at the hotel. The information is below. After 3/28/18 the hotel will release the rooms that have not been reserved.

Golden Nugget: Primary Hotel and Convention Site

Contact: 1-800-777-7568

Code: S187109

Days Available: Thursday-Saturday

Be sure you have a current travel card. The old card is no longer valid after 2/28/17. And for the new card to be valid you need to sign it.

I look forward to seeing you all on the Coast.

Philip

**Philip Jabour
State Secretary
Mississippi Jurisdiction
Knights of Columbus**

Carl Brochard State Family Director

I would like to Congratulate the (4) Families that were picked by Supreme:

Paul Donovan- Council 898

David Reuscher- Council 4898

Dennis Rieche- Council 9543

Grover Johnson- Council 15155

Thanks for the (19) families that took the time to turn in a family.

802, 848, 898*, 1244, 1583, 1908, 2180, 4472, 4898*, 5654, 7974, 8054, 9094, 9124, 9543*, 10443, 11995, 15155*, 15382.
As I say every month if you submitted a family and it is not listed please send me the Name of the Family and Council and I will get you credit.

Thanks

Carl Brochard
broch57@bellsouth.net

Holy Savior Council 7854

On Feb 10th , Holy Savior Council 7854 held there monthly prayer service for the unborn at the Jackson Abortion Clinic.



L-R: Craig Harrell, Bill O'Connor and Steve Miller

Council 848 Jackson

Council 848 Jackson PGK Charlie Sims was Chairman of the Keep Christ in Christmas Program for the Council. Sir Knight Charlie Sims approached St. Anthony Catholic School in Madison, MS where his wife Christy is a 3rd Grade teacher. After getting permission from Jim Bell, Principal, 1st through 6th grade were asked to participate in the program. Below are pictures from the award ceremony at St. Anthony's on January 5, 2018. Sir Knight Charlie Sims presents a Certificate of Appreciation to Principal Jim Bell and picture #2 is with some of the students who were awarded "Certificates of Participation" from the Knights of Columbus. Charlie Sims



St. Therese Council 8285

St. Therese Council 8285 hosted a retreat led by Redemptorists based in Greenwood February 10, themed Faith, Family & Fatherhood - La Fe, Familia & Paternidad. Over 40 men attended the event featuring sessions in English and Spanish which incorporated elements from the KC Building the Domestic Church program. Fr. Kevin Zubel visits with attendees. 8285 members Bill Addie and Bill Singletary visit with St. Therese parishioner Bob Kruseski



Holy Savior Council 7854

An Admissions Degree was held on Saturday February 24th at Holy Savior. Rick Accardo and Jesse Qualls were exemplified into the 1st Degree.



Council Grand Knight Steve Miller prepared a lunch consisting of pulled pork, slaw and french fries. Great fellowship was enjoyed by all.

Holy Savior Council 7854 Pancake Supper

Feb 13th – Inaugural Fat Tuesday Parish Pancake Supper was held after evening mass and it was a huge success.



- Joe Mraz tends the griddle.



Biloxi Council 1244



On February 18, the Biloxi Council 1244 held a Formation and Knighthood degree for 19 members. Congratulations to these brothers on their advancement.

Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Winners

5-7 Age Group



Jane Matthews Council 898, Vickburg

8-10 Age Group



Jehosabeth Miriam Vargheese, Council 7854, Holy Savior Clinton

11-14 Age Group



Gracie Finlay, Msgr Gregory Kennedy Council 10499, St. Elizabeth Seton, Ocean Springs

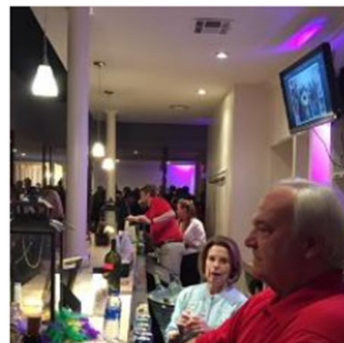
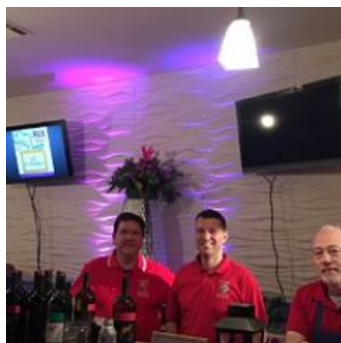
Thank you to all who entered this year. We had 22 entries from 10 councils this year. Overall we had 96 children participating. The top three posters in each age group have been sent to Supreme for the International competition. Pray that some of our winners win at the international level.

Charles Hahn

State Youth Director

St Richard Council 15131

Members of St Richard Council 15131 supporting the bartending duties at the Krewe de Cardinal. The Krewe is the St. Richard Catholic School Carnival Ball.



Starkville Council Host Formation and Knighthood Degree

Starkville Council 6765 hosted a 2nd and 3rd Degree Saturday February 24th where 13 candidates advanced to full Knighthood in. Registration started at 10 am in the Parish hall with the Formation Degree with starting at 10.30 am with 10 candidates. After the Degree Lunch was served and the room was prepped for the Knighthood Degree which began at 1 pm. Conferring Officer was PSD Peter Sukanek with PSD Jerry Schmuck delivering the Fraternal Charge, they were assisted by Randy Follett who served as A/V person. State Secretary Philip Jabour was present to assist the Conferring during his presentation to the candidates. Participating were from Council 1244 Biloxi - Dylan Gutierrez, Council 6765 Starkville - Brian Melton, Daniel Ryan, Michael Taquino and Gregg Twietmeyer, Council 7974 Columbus - Mark Friloux, Council 8848 Tupelo - Robby Parman, Kent Friloux, Eddie Griffin and Paul Huber, Council 9409 Biloxi - Zach Wagner and Tony Zbysinski, Council 10901 Phillip Olivi and John Valentine.

Formation Degree Class



Knighthood Class





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Serving the Mississippi Jurisdiction of the Knights of Columbus

Volume XXI Issue III Supplement

March 2018

Noel,

*"Strengthening
Catholic Families."*

Inside this issue:

MK Supplement

Council News

Thank you for your assistance yesterday, at the Diocese of Biloxi. With that said, would you please forward your approval to the author of the Magnolia Knight so the following message is included in the Marche issue. As you know, since may accident last fall I have been remiss as it relates to the activity of our young men, our councils and their continued success.

"The Retention & Recruiting Our Young Knights" - "What Are These Knights Up To?"

Important Dates Request Your Assistance: [March 23rd - March 25th 2018] Youth Convention at the Gulf Coast Coliseum. All Diocese of Biloxi Councils are asked to reach out to your Parish and Parish Ministry and find out who from your parish is attending the Dioceses Youth Convention and please reach out and support their effort. Also see if a member of your council can join your parish group as an interested partner. You will be surprised at the number of Knights that work with your parish youth and parish ministry who would be grateful if you pitched it. Members of the State Jurisdiction are also inviting you and your younger council members to join them at this convention. Following are pictures of last year's event. Last year several young men who attended last year's convention went back to their High School and Parish and joined their Knights of Columbus Parish Council. GO KNIGHTS BILOXI COUNCILS!! PLEASE LET BILL HAAS or BRYAN CASSAGNE know if you or a youthful member of your council will join us and recruit more young men into the Knights of Columbus as we did last year.



January 26, 27, 27 and 28. The Knights of Columbus, Council # 15382, in working with FOCUS and the USM Catholic Student Association, who sponsored the A Spiritual Impact Bootcamp at Saint Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church, prepared the afternoon. Patrick Spethman, the CAMPUS FOCUS MINISTRY Leader is a member of a Knights of Columbus Council out of Nebraska. He as well as Mathew Mosley and many of the other campus Ministry Leaders are Knights from various councils throughout the country, including the state of Mississippi.



Congratulations To Knight Scholar J.R. Riojas of the Woolmarket community in Harrison County. J.R. is a graduate of St. Patrick High School and he is a member of the Knights of Columbus, St. Mary's Parish Council 9673. J.R. was recently recognized and was exemplify "one of the best for scholarship, community service and leadership" at Ole Miss. J. R is also is one of the Freshman UM Stamps Scholars who with others explored a river during their 'bonding excursion', last summer, in Ecuador.



Congratulations to Council 6765 for the exemplification of Tony, Zach and Dylan to their 2nd and 3rd Degree of Knighthood. These now Mississippi State students graduated from St. Patrick High School last year. Great job!!

In closing, as shown in the most recent KNIGHT LINE "Supreme Knight Carl Anderson, renewed a call to recruit young members to the Knights of Columbus, saying The Orders Future Is At Stake"

Congratulations to all Councils who are now supporting the growth of young men, in becoming Knights between the ages of 19 to 29. If you have any photographs, or stories to share, please forward them to Bill Haas at wdhaas@bellsouth.net



Young Men Our Future Leaders For Life

Noel,

I think the attached brochure would be a great item, also for the March Magnolia Knight, since many councils need a stimulus to convince them that Supreme approves this initiative and other Councils in other states have now also" jump stated" similar programs as the state of Mississippi as it related to the great growth of young Knights.

Bless you brothers for all you do for so many!!

How Do Other Councils Recruited High School & College Students

Mississippi Brothers,

"Our council has been recruiting seniors, on a local level, from high school for about 2 or 3 years now. Our council and our Catholic High Schools have been working together for quite some time. The seniors we usually recruit have been awarded donations from our council in the past

for youth trips for march for life, and NCYC just to name a few. I have also been recruiting the Catholic men at our local Public HS and have had success doing that as well.. I visit with the parents of the Soon-to-be-Knight, and they also help and assist me in making a list of the others

in the Public school that are catholic. We put them to work while they are here and then they are off to college.

We try to make a point to have them contact our college councils in Lincoln and Omaha but that's easier said than done. Here in our town of 3200 people, we make a valid point of when they join, that we know that most of them will be moving back to our community after getting their degree, so keeping them connected to the knights is a wonderful thing. We hope that it will help with the transition to college and keep them from straying away from the faith because we all know how college life can be for some of these young adults. If they do stray from Christ, I know from experience, when they come back to our community, the knights will welcome them and get them back involved in community and the church. So I see it as a 2-way street. In West Point Council #2272, we award each senior with Honor Chords to wear at Commencement. The Public School said that they couldn't wear them last year, but our 2 brother knights Graduating, said....."We don't care what the school says, we are proud to be in the Knights of Columbus". At our Catholic School, we were allowed to present the Honor Chords to them at Honors night, where the IPDS Tony and I Gave an elevator speech about the knights. I also made a point to have all of our Brother Knights to stand up, making the seniors aware that they had us brothers to support them in the future! It also indirectly singled out all of the Catholic Men, who may have been, or may not have been asked, to join our order. Recruiting the High school men to join is also a way to bridge the gap to some of their fathers who may not be knights.

Hope some of this helps,
Thanks and God Bless,"

"Membership growth, especially by recruiting younger men who are committed to service, is a top priority for the Knights of Columbus."

~Supreme Knight
Carl Anderson

Four principles for recruiting Catholic men:

1. Seek out those who are willing to serve others
2. Appeal to younger men
3. Find roles within councils to draw out the skills of younger men
4. Develop programs that will attract these men and keep them interested and active

~Recruitment Priorities outlined at the 135th Supreme Convention



West Point Council #2272 has been leading Nebraska's effort in recruiting the next generation of Knights. It's time for the rest of the State to follow their lead and join in the Nebraska Knights of Columbus High School Recruitment Initiative.

"It's not always easy for young adults to stay connected to the Catholic Church as they begin college life. I believe membership in the Knights of Columbus helps keep young men grounded in their faith."

~Chris Kreikemeier, DD 42

Contact Information

State Deputy Lon Gasper
statedepntv@nebraskakofc.org
(402) 440-3028

State Membership Director Mark Dwyer
dwyer@necpm.net
(402) 843-6167

Nebraska K of C High School Recruitment Initiative

A guide to help with the recruitment and retention of our young Catholic men

