



Wisconsin

KC STATE NEWSLETTER

"DEFEND US IN BATTLE"

DECEMBER 2024



TOMAH COUNCIL
COUNCIL #4125
QUEEN OF THE APOSTLES
TOMAH, WI

OFFICERS LIST

State Officers

State Chaplain

Rev. Fr. Brian Dulli
2947 Thinnes Street
Cross Plains, WI 53528
H 608-798-0100
frbriandulli@wikofc.com

State Deputy

Patrick Reiff
PO Box 270411
Milwaukee, WI 53227
C 414-403-7504
preiff@gmail.com

State Secretary

Ross Larson
PO Box 291
Edgar, WI 54426
H (715) 551-0714
rlarson@wikofc.com

State Treasurer

Ernie Reinhart
8323 66th St.
Kenosha, WI 53142
(740) 973-0737
ereinhart@kofc.com

State Advocate

Dr. David Kreutz
Kenosha, WI 52094
(847) 456-7330
dkreutz@wikofc.com

State Warden

James Vosters
90 Northbreeze Dr.
Appleton, WI 54911
(920) 850-4999
jvosters@wikofc.com

Immediate

Past State Deputy

John P. Huttenhoff
310 Merryturn Road
Madison, WI 53714
C 608-347-7914
jhuttenhoff@wikofc.com

State Office Manager

Rick Raulin
1742 Heath Ave.
Madison, WI 53704
C (608) 628-0973
rraulin@wikofc.com





ONE OF MY challenges to everyone at the start of this fraternal year was to have every council active.

What does that mean? It means simply every council needs to add one new member to their roster, and they are considered being active. This should not be a major issue with all the programs we are doing and all the supportive programs and training tools provided by Supreme.

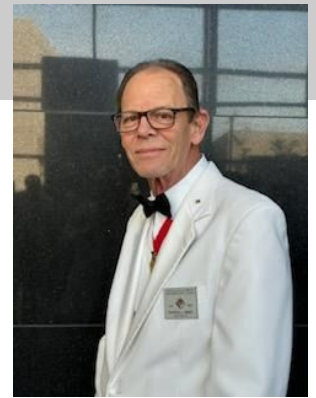
However, we still have over 40% of our councils that have yet to bring in a single new member this year and we are almost at the halfway mark of this fraternal year.

My Wisconsin goal from Supreme is to be at 50% of our annual target by December 31st. Our annual goal is 1229 new members, so 50% would be approximately 614. As of November 26th, we are at 402 or 32%.

Our Winter District Deputy meeting is scheduled for December 6th – 8th in Steven Point. All the District Deputies are required to

bring a report on their district's performance to date, and to report on why certain councils are struggling to bring in at least one new member, when we have other councils that have already surpassed their yearly intake goal as early as October. All of the State Officers, Directors and District Deputies are ready and willing to help you succeed.

My sincere thanks and appreciation to all of you who have taken my initiative to heart and are getting ahead of the curve on timely compliance of your reports & member intake. You are On Mission! By being active and effective in our Programs, Church and Community, we can become the Fishers of Men that Blessed Father McGivney laid out for this organization in 1882. Let's not let him down at this critical time in our country where our faith is being challenged, and our men & families are being disillusioned. Men are



willing to join an organization where they can bond & share a common desire to maintain & stand up for their Catholic Faith.

All we have to do is ask! Think back to when you were approached about joining the Knights of Columbus. What was your motivation to join? It worked for you; it can work for others.

Those councils that have not yet brought in a new member, are you ready to step into the breach? We want to ensure that this great organization will continue to support the poor and less fortunate for another 140+ years!

When was the last time you asked a man to join? If never, why not? It's never too late to start.

Vivat Jesus!



AS CHRISTMAS APPROACHES, I am grateful for each of you and your ongoing commitment to the Knights of Columbus in Wisconsin.

Let's reflect on St. Joseph! He was truly the perfect husband for Mary and father for Jesus. So many of our members are fathers at heart. Take the time that you need with your children and grandchildren. Invest in them at a personal level. Let them know that you are proud of them. Christmas is the perfect time for us all to focus on family life as one of the foremost values of our organization.

I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the generous and faithful contributions of our General Agent, Tim Nowak. Recently at a State Council meeting, Tim explained that KC insurance is a business that he runs like a fraternal

organization. He cautioned us not run our fraternal organization too much like a business. Tim has helped both sides of the Knights of Columbus by leading with his faith. Tim brings a caring touch to the families who rely on our insurance. Thank you for the positive influence you have been on me and on so many brother knights in Wisconsin. Tim will be sorely missed as he returns home to Nebraska.

This Christmas, Wisconsin also has joyful news at the appointment of Archbishop Jeffrey Grob to the Milwaukee Archdiocese. Archbishop Grob grew up in Cross Plains, WI, where I am currently assigned.

After Archbishop ListECKI's strong leadership, Milwaukee is blessed to have a new shepherd. Please pray for



the Archbishop on his installation date, January 14.

With all of my prayers for you and your family, I wish you all a Merry Christmas, filled with Jesus Christ!

Let us be at the forefront of keeping Christ in Christmas. A Christ-filled Christmas draws our focus on the mystery of salvation. In that little infant, the salvation of the whole world will be found. With our hearts opened to the mystery of salvation, our souls ring out the praise of heaven, united with the angel chorus. Let your Christmas be marked by worship.

Vivat Jesus!

I COME TO YOU this month, writing this article while attending our Winter District Deputy meeting as the leaders across our State come together to discuss how we close this calendar year as well as this Fraternal Year on another successful path for the Knights in Wisconsin. Often we talk about 'new programs' and 'new ideas' and ways to grow our programs and membership in the Knights. Growth and 'innovative' ways to grow is always a challenge but something we should strive to do as a way to overcome the challenges we are faced with. But oftentimes, what has also worked in the past is also something that we

should reflect back on and what a treat the District Deputies had this weekend hearing from Past State Deputy, Wenzel Felber.

For those of you who are not aware, Wenzel Felber was State Deputy from 1998-2000. During that time, not only did Wenzel achieve membership growth in our State which is a rare feat (offsetting deaths and suspensions we have each day, with new members) but he was the last State Deputy during the time that our Membership in our State was over 40,000 members. As of this writing, we are just under 34,500 members in our state, a decline of almost 15% from where

our membership was approximately 25 years ago. Wenzel took time to talk about 'what worked' during his time, simple messages and ways to motivate and engage our council leaders. I'm sure some of you will be seeing in the coming week(s) and month(s) some of these concepts put into action by your District Deputies as the presentation was very well received. It's important sometimes to 'go back to basics' of what has worked in the past, and what we can easily implement back into action to set us on the right path.

Throughout the coming weeks you will also hear more and more about



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being 'ON MISSION' as this is a charge that was presented to all of us by Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly at this year's Supreme Convention as well as reinforced by State Deputy Patrick Reiff this weekend. Being 'ON MISSION' means that we need to not only focus on improving our Programs and the good works of charity that we do in the Knights, but also to 'INVITE OTHERS' to join in this Mission. Over 7 million Catholic eligible men have NEVER been invited to join the Knights, but would consider joining based off of a nationwide Pew survey. What a tremendous opportunity we have this Advent season and Lenten season and beyond to be MISSIONARIES for the Knights and our Mission by inviting every eligible Catholic man to join our good works.

Finally, our District Deputies received some great informational statistics on each of your Councils. This information ranges from your council's average age, to your membership over the past 3 years, to the age demographics of each of

your Council. If your Council ever has questions on this information or if you are wanting any specific help with the challenges your council has in growing membership, please reach out directly to your District Deputy, your Diocesan Leaders and your State Officers and State leaders like myself, as we are excited, motivated, and willingly able to assist you in reaching your goals!

As we are now in the season of Advent, I also wanted to mention a recent homily I heard that spoke about how Advent isn't just a 'PREPARATION' for the coming of Christ, but how every season we are in preparation for what is to come. The Birth of Christ, the Death of Christ, as well as our own 'PREPARATION' for the coming of Christ upon our death. This really struck me, as a comment we sometimes heard recently is how councils were 'too busy' to conduct membership activities or meetings at it is the 'Advent' season in our church and how our time needs to be spent preparing for this. But every day is a 'PREPARATION' throughout our liturgical year and within our councils in our Fraternal



Year to help ensure that each of us is PREPARED to meet Jesus Christ in heaven. So, I would like to personally challenge each of our council leaders to think about this very topic—are we providing our council members with every opportunity to grow in their faith as well as to lead a life for others, a life of charity by our good works. If we feel that we are fulfilling this for our council members, then I would challenge each leader to take this a step further and become that MISSIONARY for the Knights' Mission by inviting another eligible Catholic man to join our great organization!

What a great opportunity to INVITE a man to join the Knights as we hopefully see an increase in our mass attendances in this advent and Christmas season!

Vivat Jesus!



AS THE HOLIDAY season approaches and we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus, it is important to remember our duty to protect vulnerable children and families. That's why I am reaching out to those councils whose numbers are listed below.

596, 669, 697, 719, 832, 1033, 1612, 1654, 1825, 1840, 2032, 2066, 2422, 2639, 2787, 2845, 2990, 3095, 3557, 3702, 4419, 4439, 4505, 4579, 4614, 4628, 4634, 4671, 4692, 4831, 4871, 4932, 4963, 5415, 5844, 6370, 6464, 6480, 6554, 6568, 6586, 6646, 6689, 6702, 6718, 6754, 6776, 6786, 8061, 8108, 8649, 8946, 9070, 9078, 9371, 9546, 9608, 10158, 10522, 10552, 10675, 10714, 11657, 11832, 12183, 12185, 12596, 12606, 12609, 12621, 12662, 12673, 12677, 13083, 14677, 15276,

15571, 16171, 16244, 16333, 16582, 16691, 16821, 16900, 17035, 17149, 17348, 17468, 18057, 97048, 98048.

I urge you to take a few moments to complete a simple form, 365, which requires only a few Names, Member Numbers, and Emails. By doing so, you will be contributing to the protection of families and children around the world.

It's important to remember that every little bit helps, and even a small action like filling out a form can make a significant impact. So why not take the time to contribute to this important cause and show your support for Christ and his love for children?

If you're having trouble with the form, I encourage you to try using



Officers Online form 365 submission. Don't worry, there's even a [tutorial](#) available to help guide you through the process.

Let's work together to ensure that the upcoming holiday season is one of compassion, caring, and protection for all families and children.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter!

Vivat Jesus!



MY BROTHER KNIGHTS, I recently had the opportunity to serve the new Lacrosse Ordinary at three separate Confirmation Masses. If you have not had the opportunity to meet Bishop Battersby, he is a kind and learned man of Christ. I was struck how His Excellency truly absorbed his surroundings, in churches he had never visited prior, had connected with that Parish's past, present and future. He asked those gathered to think of the original families of the parish and what they must have sacrificed to build such a beautiful building and the beautiful families that would fill the pews for generations. He led us in reciting the Hail Mary to honor Our Mother and those families. A simple request, but one with a great impact on us present.

As Knights of Columbus, we look at our history with pride. We honor

our founder, Blessed Michael McGivney as well as Saint Pope John Paul the Great, who called the Knights of Columbus the strong right arm of the Church. We are raising more dollars and offering more hours than ever before, so we know our present is strong. We must also look to our future and make sure the Order is handed to Catholic Gentlemen. Catholic Gentlemen needing and wanting to live a heroic life of Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism. By now we will have all seen the results of the KofC study that found 7 million Catholic men in the US, say they are willing to join a mens group like ours and of that 7 million, 3.5 million of those men say they have not joined the Knights of Columbus because they have never been asked. Never been asked? How is that possible? My Brother, Advent is drawing near and "new" and old



faces will be next to us in our pew. Use this as an opportunity not to complain about the "Chri-Easters", but to welcome them. Please do what you can to make sure they were noticed. That you appreciated their witness and that you want them to come back and ask them to join us. Your Pastor will appreciate your kindness and our Order will grow today and tomorrow. Lady Rebecca and I wish you a most Blessed Thanksgiving.

Vivat Jesus!



Knights of Columbus®



GENERAL AGENT TIM NOWAK

O ALMIGHTY AND Eternal God!
Prostrate before thy Divine Majesty, I
adore Thee with all possible
reverence. I believe and hold for
certain all Thou hast revealed to Thy
holy Church. I hope in Thy infinite
goodness and mercy, and I love Thee
with all my heart.

O Great and Almighty God! I
kneel before Thee to thank Thee
with my whole heart for all the
favours which Thou has bestowed
upon me this day. For my food and
drink, my health and all my powers
of body and soul. I thank Thee for all
Thy holy lights and inspirations, for
Thy care and protection, and for all
those other mercies which I do not
now recall, or which I do not know
how to value as I ought. I thank Thee
for them all, O heavenly Father.
Though Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our
Lord. Amen.

I wanted to start my letter with a
prayer for graces for all of us that we

may or may not recognize in the
busyness of our daily lives.

Goodness and Progressive do not
mean the same thing and I share a
thought with you today. I am really
trying to share a thought about how
to have a conversation with the
other side. If goodness comes from
wanting the good for the other, then
we can all agree that we want that for
ourselves, our neighbors and even
those who oppose us. Progressive
movements are not all bad but,
become bad when they exclude God
and reverence to his Divine Majesty.
We must gently point that out to
those who oppose conservative
ideas that may appear to them as old
fashioned or too religiously zealous.
We know that the world will always
be changing but if that change
comes at the expense of the Great
God, we have to explain that it is not
change that will benefit the person
and their future. We must point that



out. (Mt 11:25 Father, because you
have hidden these things from the
wise and learned and revealed them
unto your children). We should not
be surprised when we don't agree.
However, "They shall know we are
Christians by our Love" must come
into view front and center. We do
this as members of Blessed
McGivney's Knights through Charity
and that must begin with you and at
home. Protect what is important to
you by love, not by a force of will.
Stand up for what is right, just and
good. Lead your community, your
family and your councils toward
infinite goodness. God's mercy will
be all the greater because of you.

Vivat Jesus!



THE POWER OF a compelling story cannot be overstated, especially in public relations. For the Knights of Columbus, highlighting real-life experiences has proven to be an effective strategy for showcasing the organization's mission and values. Here are a few examples of how genuine stories have made a lasting impact.

Ultrasound Initiative Testimonials

The Knights of Columbus' Ultrasound Initiative, which donates machines to pregnancy centers, is a powerful story in itself. Councils have amplified this program's success by sharing testimonials from mothers who chose life after seeing their unborn child through the donated ultrasound machines. By focusing on these personal accounts, campaigns have not only raised awareness but also inspired others to join and support the initiative.

Disaster Relief Stories

After natural disasters, Knights of Columbus councils are often on the front lines, providing aid and comfort. During the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey in 2017, several councils shared stories of Knights delivering food, clearing debris, and

praying with affected families. These heartfelt moments of service were shared in local and national media, reinforcing the organization's role as a source of hope and charity.

Scholarship Recipients' Journeys

Highlighting the stories of students who have benefited from Knights of Columbus scholarships has resonated with both members and the broader community. These narratives often include tales of overcoming adversity and achieving academic dreams, emphasizing the tangible impact of the organization's support.

Faith in Action Program Stories

Many councils have used social media and newsletters to tell the stories of Faith in Action programs. For example, one council shared how their Leave No Neighbor Behind campaign helped a struggling single father with meals and financial aid. The father's gratitude and subsequent involvement with the council showcased the ripple effect of Knights' outreach.

Lessons for Future Campaigns

These examples demonstrate the value of authenticity in PR efforts. Genuine stories connect emotionally, inspire action, and



foster a deeper understanding of the Knights' mission. By continuing to focus on real-life experiences, councils can ensure their outreach remains impactful and relevant.

If your council has a story to share, consider how it can be presented to inspire others. With a camera, a notepad, and a heart open to others' experiences, you could craft the next campaign that moves your community.

Vivat Jesus!



AS OF NOVEMBER 20, we have assigned a total of 229 new E-members since July 1, an increase of 63 in 5 weeks. Thank you.

Currently, Councils have transferred 147 E-members into Councils this Fraternal Year. Roughly 49% of Council Intake this year has been through E-members. We are still a bit behind where we would like to be here.

A major focus this quarter is to get Every Council and Every District Active. We currently have 45 pending e-members from last year, and 81 more pending e-members from this year, assigned to 75 Councils in 40 Districts. If we can Exemplify these 126 E-members and get them into Councils, it would significantly increase the number of Active Councils and Districts.

Grand Knights and Financial Secretaries can find these Assigned E-members on their Prospects Tab in Officers Online. Please make it a priority to reach out to these E-members this month and bring them into your Councils via an Exemplification.

As you are doing your programs & church drives, be sure to include the E-membership online invitation app in your invitation process to potential members.

WGK & WFS please frequently review your councils **Prospect** tab. If you are having difficulty in making contact, or any other issue, please email me regarding these outstanding assigned e-member and I will gladly assist you with reaching a remedy.

Remember: The **Prospect** tab shows you e-members that have joined your council online via the Supreme app. and the date field is used when they have completed their exemplification. The **Prospect** tab is available [here](#).

Supreme will be offering a Webinar in December on Transferring online members to council membership - The webcast will be at 7PM on 12/12/24. Here is the [link](#) to register for that.

The **Candidate** tab is what you use when you recruit a member locally or are handling a member transfer request or a reinstatement of a prior



member. The candidate tab [training](#) covers new members and transfers into local councils.

Again, the date field is the date they were exemplified by your council. Once you enter those dates in either tab, the members will be automatically transferred to your council's roster within the next week.

Do not send Form 100's to Supreme for new members. Keep them for your council records. If you must use a Form 100, scan it and email it to Supreme; keep the Original for your Council Records.

If you have any questions or concerns, contact me, I am in your State Directory. Together, Let's get it done!

Vivat Jesus!



Catholic Patriotism and the Mayflower: An Unexpected Correlation

The Mayflower landing in 1620 is often celebrated as pivotal in establishing religious freedom and American identity. Though primarily associated with Protestant Pilgrims, this historical event holds an intriguing connection to Catholic patriotism.

While the Pilgrims sought freedom from religious persecution, Catholics in England faced similar struggles during this period. Despite being marginalized, many Catholics held a deep sense of patriotism and contributed to shaping the ideals of religious liberty that would later define America.

Catholic patriotism aligns with the spirit of the Mayflower Pilgrims in its commitment to faith, resilience in adversity, and pursuit of a land where diverse beliefs could coexist. By understanding these parallels, we can appreciate how seemingly separate religious traditions

contributed to the broader narrative of America's founding principles.

This reflection reminds us that the strength of our nation lies in its rich tapestry of faith and the shared values of freedom, perseverance, and service.

"With Faith and Honor, We Serve" is not just a theme for us as Sir Knights; it also reminds us to stay on Mission as members of the Fourth Degree. Sir Knight is not just a title but a solemn calling to embody the values that define who we are — men of devotion, patriotism, and service. These values are more than words; they are the essence of our pledge to God, country, and community.

Our Wisconsin Eastern and Western Districts proudly serve councils and parishes across all five dioceses. With over 4,943 Sir Knights in 55 assemblies, we are dedicated to supporting more than 300 councils. We cordially invite all Third Degree Knights to join us in making history as we celebrate the remarkable 125th anniversary



of the Fourth Degree of the Knights of Columbus. This is a momentous occasion to honor our candidates who will exemplify the Fourth Degree of our Order on April 12 and May 3, 2025. Be sure to mark your calendars for these significant events—your participation will help us commemorate this milestone together!

Vivat Jesus!



WE ARE ENTERING into the Advent season as you're reading this. Advent is the period of preparation for the coming of our Lord on December 25th. This year, Supreme is offering some wonderful Advent and Christmas programs for us to take part in as Councils or Individuals.

Sons in the Son. Restoring our sonship through concentration to Our Lady of Guadalupe. This program is designed to restore the Gift of Sonship in God the Father through companionship with Our Lady of Guadalupe and St. Juan Diego. The program helps us restore Our Sonship, Our Communion with God in Prayers, Our Masculinity, Our Actions in Attitudes through the Beatitudes, and Our Mission. The full program can be started on either November 2nd ending with the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe,

November 22nd ending with the Feast of Mary the Mother of God, February 13th ending in the Annunciation, or July 6th ending with the Assumption. Even if you were unable to start on the official start date of this program you can hop aboard by visiting this [link](#).

Advent Reflections. When our Faith is first, everything else falls in order. Through a series of videos the Knights of Columbus seeks to refocus us this Advent in Christ. There is a series of short 5- minute videos reflecting on the Advent season that can be shared in a group men's discussion group, and meeting or viewed as individuals for us to reflect upon. These canΣ

be found [here](#).

Spread the Light of Christ.

Organize an event with your pastor to light up a Christmas tree, your Church, or a Nativity Scene and have them blessed. This can include Religious Christmas caroling and other activities focusing upon the true meaning of Christmas being the birth of our Lord.

National Wreaths across America

Day this year is Saturday December 14th 2024 an opportunity to show our respect and appreciation to Veterans. Find a participating cemetery near you volunteer to place the wreaths, help finance this mission, and help keep the reason for Christmas in this by helping create a program remembering the birth of our Lord.

Concentration to the Holy Family.

On December 29th is not that far away. While this is normally a Family Program it does fall to the foundation of our Faith. If you have not done so yet start preparing now publicize it to the families of the parish, order the prayer cards, and start organizing a luncheon to follow the concentration to get the families together for socialization and discussion. Having some family entertainment is also recommended to help attract families with an appropriate video.

Journey to the Inn. Traditionally, nine consecutive nights remembering the journey to Bethlehem. This program can be



done with youth as a Family program or with adults as a faith program. The main purpose of the program is to remind people of the religious connection in preparing for Christmas being more important than the secular shopping season. While the program normally runs for nine days, it can be condensed to even a single day celebration. Simply type in: "Journey to the Inn" at the Supreme web site in the search window to get various links to this historical program.

Solemnity of the Immaculate

Conception is December 9th. If you can celebrate a mass followed by a supper and consider a candlelight procession with a rosary and singing. When did you have your last Eucharistic Procession? Discuss

with your pastor he would consider or if you have a considerable Hispanic membership having it on the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on December 12th.

The Jubilee Year will offer the faithful opportunities to participate in various jubilee events at the Vatican and in their own diocese. The great tradition of opening the Holy Door will begin when Pope Francis opens the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica on December 24, 2024. Each diocese will have their



CHARITY RAFFLE

BERNIE HEIT

own celebration for the opening of the Holy Year at the time we proceed from Advent to the Christmas the season.

RSVP Program. Remember that it is a custom for our Councils to support our Seminarians as much as possible. This includes praying for them, inviting them to our meetings and social events to show them our support and helping them financially. Supreme wants to encourage this program by returning assistance to the Councils and Assemblies that support our seminarians by reimbursing them with \$100.00 for every \$500 they donate to a seminarian. Remember you need to complete two forms for full credit and the reimbursement of forms. Form 2863 RSVP refund Application with a copy of the checks needs to be submitted to Supreme. Form #10784 Fraternal Programs Report needs to be submitted as well to Supreme.

Remember to also copy and submit a copy of all forms to the state at Forms@wikofc.com to receive state credit and a back up if questions pop up.

YCAT Bibles are still available. I will have them to distribute to those Districts that ordered them at the Winter District Deputies meeting. If you need them before then send me an email at dbednarek48@gmail.com or call me at 262-470-4477.

To order them go to the State web page and select the blue button labeled "State Council Store" to pay with credit card. Check payment can be sent to either the State Office or

me, directly to me at the with checks made out to "Wisconsin State Council K of C". However, to ensure we have sufficient copies to fill all the orders at the meeΘng, please send me your order in advance. The cost remains at \$12.50 per bible. I will have bibles to fill the orders at the Winter meeting as well as few extra for last minute orders.

Pilgrim Icon. Currently we have roughly a month before Supreme has requested us to return the St. Joseph Icon to them.

All icons must be at the State Office before the weekend of December 7th. If you still have an icon make sure your District Deputy takes it the Winter District Deputies meeting.

Come early 2025 Supreme has promised us a new Item of the Sacred Heart which will be rotated. When we receive them

I'll release the schedule for rotation. As this is the first Rotation of the Sacred Heart Icon I believe it will rotate much more smoothly.

Easter is getting closer to us every day. Now is the time to start planning your Councils activities for Lent that Starts on Ash Wednesday on March 5th and Easter Sunday April 20th. What is a better way to celebrate the season of the first Eucharist than a Eucharistic Procession through your town on Easter Day? Does your Parish have a Canopy? For details on how to plan and execute a Eucharistic process please see this [link](#).

Vivat Jesus!

CHARITY

RAFFLE

In this season of advent, the best way to prepare for the birth of our savior is by helping out our brothers and sisters. Many families throughout this great state, by no fault of the own, get into desperate situations. We have all heard of the heart wrenching stories of families devastated by the monumental circumstances they are placed in and many of us have experienced them first hand. We need to be the beacon of hope in these times. This raffle does that in a way that no individual or council can. As we get together with family and friends to celebrate the birth of our Lord, give them the chance to participate in this great program of charity.

Total Prize List

\$124,000

1st: 2025 Ford Ranger or \$50,000

2nd: Harley Davidson Motorcycle or \$25,000

3rd – 100th: \$500
Tickets \$5.00 each

Drawing Saturday May 17, 2025

KI Convention Center,
Green Bay, WI



ULTRASOUND PROJECTS

St. Gianna Clinic in De Pere,
Our Lady of Hope Clinic in
Madison and Life's Connection
(new location) Menomonee Falls
and Abiding Care in Medford.
Congratulations to Council(s)
#17889, #10714, #4240 & 1744
for your leadership on these
ultrasound initiatives. If your
council would like to help, please
send your checks to:

St. Maria Goretti Council # 17889

GK Justin Knapp

255 Park St

Oregon, WI 53575

(262) 994-0319

jwknapp98@gmail.com

Fr. Claude Allouez Council #10714

Peter Tilleman

3155 E River Dr

Green Bay, WI 54301

920-737-0630 cell

pltilleman@gmail.com

KC Council #4240

GK Mike Elmer

P.O. Box 151

Menomonee Falls, WI 53051-0151

(262-893-5403)

crazy_e98@hotmail.com

The Wisconsin Knights of
Columbus have agreed to have
boots on the ground for all Special
Olympics of Wisconsin (SOWI)
statewide events. There are five
events (Fall Games, Bowling,
Winter Games, Spring Games,
Summer Games). We look
forward to seeing your council at
one of their statewide events!

Wisconsin Special Olympics –
State Bowling Tournament

Here is what Special Olympics of
Wisconsin needs from us:

The 2024 Special Olympics
Wisconsin Bowling regional
competition will culminate in the
State Bowling Tournament, held
December 7-8 in Wausau. Athletes
that qualify for State can compete
in singles, doubles, team and
unified events. Visit the State
Bowling Tournament webpage for
additional information and
registration forms.

[Volunteer Here!](#)

Kettle Moraine Knights of
Columbus #3562

Tyler Feldkamp

211 Park Ave.

Pewaukee, WI 53072

920-205-7483

tyler.feldkamp@gmail.com

- ▷ **Date:** Saturday, December 7–Sunday, December 8
- ▷ **Location:** Competition– Dale's Weston Lanes, 5902 Schofield Ave, Weston, WI
- ▷ **Schedule: Saturday, December 7**
 - ▷ 8:30am – 6:30pm – Competition
 - ▷ 10:00am – 3:00pm – Healthy Athletes: Medfest, Healthy Hearing, Special Smiles
 - ▷ 7:00pm – 8:30pm – Dance/Celebration
- ▷ **Sunday, December 8**
 - ▷ 8:30am–6:30pm – Competition
 - ▷ 10:00am–1:00pm – Performance Station

Safe Haven Baby Boxes

There has been a lot of discussion about the Safe Haven Baby Boxes and how the KofCs can get involved. Currently, Elkhorn will be cutting the ribbon at their firehouse located at 13 S. Broad St., Elkhorn, on Monday, November 25th at 3pm. Anyone is welcome to attend the ribbon cutting! Also, Racine is ready to go as well, but I have not heard when the ribbon cutting will be exactly. I am told that Sturgeon Bay is organizing one at their local hospital!

1. Money. If your council wants to sponsor an installation, in full, or in part, you can do that through Safe Haven Baby Box, Inc. directly, or with Pro-Life Wisconsin, who has set up a grant fund for the endeavor. If you want to sponsor a specific project, it has to have a signed contract with Safe Haven Baby Boxes, Inc. If you simply



want to sponsor the effort in general, you can direct your checks to Pro-Life Wisconsin with “Baby Box” in the memo section. As the projects come together and are looking for funding, we will grant funds from that pool of donations as they make themselves known to us. If you have a donor who wants the tax write off, have him or her send their donation either to Safe Haven Baby Boxes, Inc. and have them earmark it for a Baby Box in Wisconsin, or to Pro-Life Wisconsin, with Baby Box in the memo line of your check.

2. Get the ball rolling in your community to have one installed! Start with your fire chief. These boxes must be installed in an area that is manned 24/7/365 – which usually means a police station, hospital ER or the local fire station. For guidance on where to start, call

Safe Haven Baby Boxes, Inc. at 888-742-2133.

ASAP Grants

Hopefully the month of November left your council’s checking account EMPTY after giving away all your money to pregnancy centers in your area! For every \$500 (up to \$2,000) you gave to a maternity home or pregnancy center, Supreme Council will give that non-profit entity another \$100! But, you have to apply for it! Always best to apply online! If you need help with that, let me know and I’ll help walk you through it. OR... you can give me the information and I will apply for you online!

Choose Life Wisconsin Grant Fund

Any pro-life pregnancy center or maternity home can apply for a grant from Choose Life Wisconsin

– the Choose Life Plate People! Apply [here](#) any time.

The more Choose Life Wisconsin plates that are on the road, the more money Choose Life Wisconsin will have to help the pregnancy centers of Wisconsin. It’s only another \$25 when you renew your registration on your car! 100% of those funds go to the pregnancy centers! Currently, we have about 2,500 plates on the road. Every pro-life person should have these plates proudly displayed on their car(s)! Apply here for your Choose Life Plates! It’s a PDF and you have to mail it in!

Vivat Jesus!



Knights of Columbus®



COR INITIATIVE

JUSTIC KNAPP & ANDY ORGOVAN

EVANGELIZATION & FAITH FORMATION

ADVENT, THE SEASON of preparation leading up to Christmas, holds a special place in the Catholic Church. It is a time of anticipation, reflection, and renewal. As we await the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, Advent offers a unique opportunity for evangelization, inviting both the faithful and those seeking spiritual growth to deepen their relationship with God.

Advent is not just about preparing our homes with decorations and gifts; it's about preparing our hearts for the coming of Christ. This season encourages us to reflect on the profound mystery of the Incarnation and to share this joy with others. The Church calls on its members to be active evangelizers, spreading the message of hope, peace, joy, and love that Advent embodies.

During Advent, parishes often host special events such as Advent retreats, additional confession opportunities, and Lessons and Carols. These events are perfect opportunities to invite friends, family, and neighbors who may not regularly attend Mass. By participating in these activities, we can share the true meaning of Christmas and the transformative power of Christ's love.

In the spirit of evangelization and community building, the Knights of Columbus have launched the Cor initiative. This program aims to establish men's groups focused on prayer, fraternity, and formation. Cor, meaning "heart" in Latin, reflects the initiative's goal to touch the hearts of men and inspire them to lead lives rooted in faith and service.

Advent is an ideal time to promote and join the Cor initiative. As we prepare for the coming of Christ, we are reminded of the importance of community and the call to evangelize. By participating in the Cor initiative, men can deepen their faith, build lasting friendships, and become effective evangelizers.

To begin Cor in your council, reach out to Andy Orgovan or Justin Knapp, or visit www.kofc.org/cor for more information. Together, we can make this Advent season a time of spiritual renewal and evangelization, strengthening our communities and spreading the light of Christ.

Advent is a season of hope and renewal, and through initiatives like Cor, we can ensure that this spirit extends beyond the Christmas season. Let us embrace this time to evangelize, build community, and grow in our faith.

Vivat Jesus!

COMMUNITY & YOUTH PROGRAMS

AS YOU SHOULD be aware, there are 5 "adult" programs within the "Community" umbrella of the KC Faith in Action Initiative, namely: 1) Coats for Kids, 2) Habitat for Humanity, 3) Global Wheelchairs, 4) Helping Hands, 5) Disaster Preparedness. Congratulations to those who've planned a Coats for Kids Drive and carried it out for "Black Friday" or on another date recently with I'm sure tremendous success. It's a "signature program" of the Knights. If you haven't yet done so, there's still time before Christmas to do so at a school, homeless shelter, your parish, a community center, etc. You can still "make a difference" yet this year.

Likewise, before year's end, there's still time to gladden the heart of someone in need by doing a fundraiser and making a substantial donation (or getting involved in an ongoing local project) to Habitat for Humanity, the Global Wheelchair Drive, or a local Helping Hands program in your community or parish. Hardly a day goes by that I don't see a Facebook post or news release about Habitat in Wisconsin or somewhere in the nation looking for volunteers or funds or ReStore donations to aid their work,

JUSTIN KNAPP
DIRECTOR OF EVANGELIZATION & FAITH FORMATION, DIOCESE OF MADISON
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
262-994-0319



COMMUNITY & YOUTH PROGRAMS

BILL FRAYER

Article starts on pg. 16

Now is the time we can step up and lead that needed push to aid them in their work.

There's a great need for those wheelchairs in Ukraine, the Middle East, Haiti, Africa and Asian areas, etc. Wisconsin according to Supreme, does very little with this program. It's only \$150 for a chair. Come on – let's step up and help out – see the Supreme website for more information.

I'll address Helping Hands more in January. My main focus this month, however, is on Disaster Preparedness. Certainly, many in the western Carolinas, Florida, Georgia, eastern Tennessee, etc. never expected to see the devastation from Hurricanes Helene and Milton, but it came. With climate change, we in much of Wisconsin may one day incur the same unexpected damage from floods, tornadoes, winter storms, etc. we never thought possible. Thus, it's certainly appropriate that we work with our parishes and community organizations, local

government agencies, schools, etc. to set the groundwork for response to such and be sure it's up to date! For more information, check the Supreme website and with our State Disaster Response

Chair, Paul Shepherd. In addition, you may want to hold a fundraiser and/or make a substantial donation to the Supreme Disaster Relief Fund or

the State Fund. Recent issues of Columbia

magazine have highlighted the work of the Knights in these hard-hit areas (also Tim Nowak's recent newsletters).

On the other side of the coin, there are also 4 "Youth" programs in the "Community" portion of F.i.A., namely: 1) Free Throw, 2) Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest, 3) Soccer Challenge, 4)

Hockey Skills Challenge. For the Citizenship Essay Contest, students should be completing their essay entries by Nov. 30. Councils are to receive them by Dec. 15, grade them and get winners to your Diocesan Program Coordinator by Jan. 1.

Council Soccer Challenge results should be sent to your DPC when completed as should Hockey Challenge results. These contests can be run at any time – outdoors or indoors. Diocesan and State Contests (the need for them) will be determined by the number of results that are reported. Diocesan and State winners will be chosen accordingly.

The Free Throw (and Knowledge) Contests should be planned now, needed supplies ordered and sites, dates and times selected. Council contests can be held any time from December-March 2 for Free Throw; March 20 for Knowledge. District Free Throw Contest window is March 7-23. Diocesan Contests for both events will be held March 29-April 20. The State Finals are planned

for Assumption High School in Wisconsin Rapids on Saturday, May 3. Updated packet information for Free Throw and Knowledge Contests is now on the State website. Updated tests will be available on the secure portion of the State website by mid-December.

The "Culture of Life" Essay Contest will again be in January-February. Updated topic and instruction packets will be on the State website by mid-December. Start now to secure permission from schools, parishes, etc. Essays will be due to Councils by Feb. 15, graded and winners sent to your DPCs by March 1.

Finally, the State PPK Finals were held at Newman High School in Wausau on Saturday, Nov. 9. Some 65 student-athletes competed – great atmosphere, good weather, fine help from Council 1069, District 28 and La Crosse Diocese! Results are on the State website. We plan to be back there in 2025.

Hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving. Wishing you all a Merry, Holy, Blessed Christmas and a Happy, Warm, Safe and Healthy New Year 2025!

Vivat Jesus!



IT IS A BUSY time of year. The Holiday season is upon us and you should be planning for the third and fourth quarter. Keep in mind that the five P's. **Proper planning prevents poor performance.** Now is the time to determine if your council is on track to attain the Columbian Award. If needed make adjustments to the plan so you are not scrambling in May and June. Below are some ideas for you to consider including in your plan.

Consecration of the Holy Family / Keep Christ in Christmas

It's not too late to plan a Christmas event such as Consecration to the Holy Family or Keep Christ in Christmas. Invite all families of the parish to participate and identify new men that could strengthen your council. Talk to Father today to determine how your council can best support.

Food for Families

As the holidays quickly approach, let's make sure families don't go to sleep hungry. The Food for Families program has donated millions of dollars and pounds of food toward this cause. Continue to get your councils involved with their local food pantries or soup kitchens and let them know that for every \$500 or 1,000 pounds of food donated, the Supreme Council will refund \$100 back to the council – up to a maximum of \$500 per council per fraternal year. For more information or resources, please visit www.kofc.org/food

Spiritual Reflection – Our Lady of Guadalupe Resources

The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe provides a great opportunity for councils to conduct a Spiritual Reflection for the men of the council or the parish more broadly. Resources for Spiritual Reflection and a history of Our Lady of Guadalupe can be found on the supreme website. In addition, an explanation of the Secrets of Her Image is available on this poster. Share these resources with councils to promote the Spiritual Reflection Program or use them as part of Cor's formation component.

Free Throw Championship

Basketball season is here!! What are we doing to keep our youth active and engaged? Encourage councils to participate in a Free throw competition.

Since 1972, councils have sponsored the Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship for boys and girls from 9 to 14 to provide an athletic outlet and encourage the values of sportsmanship and healthy competition. Kids compete within their gender and age and progress from the local level to district, regional, and state/province competitions.

For more information and resources, please visit www.kofc.org/freethrow. For those councils hesitant about the program, refer them to the Free Throw Guidebook #1928 to see how easy it is to run the program.

Program Admin Updates

The Columbian Award Application (#SP-7) and State Council Service Program Awards Entry Form (#STSP)

have been updated to be clearer, more concise and easier to use for councils. Please provide these new forms to the councils in your jurisdictions – it's never too soon to start identifying candidates for State

Program Awards! All forms can be found at kofc.org/forms.

Consider sending the Individual Member Worksheet (#1728A) to council members for reporting their volunteer hours and charitable donations made during the year on behalf of your council. Responses will

help you to prepare an accurate Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity (#1728) due January 31st.

Vivat Jesus!



State Yard Sign Program

The Keep Christ in Christmas yard sign program satisfies a Supreme Council recommended Faith in Action -Family activity. Over the years, a large number of Midwest councils have participated in this program.

If your council is interested in participating in this year's KCIC yard sign program, please complete the order form below and return it to coordinator SK Randy Radtke/ Council 6690 no later than Oct. 15,2024. Yard signs and wires will be shipped early November.

[2024ORDER FORM](#)

Yard Sign incldg wire: \$3.50e. Minimum order: 25 signs, allotments of 25 please. Moisture resistant sign placard is 11"x28" with wire stake. Regionaldropshipdeliverymay be coordinated.

KCIC Car Magnet: \$2.25e. Minimum order 25 magnets.

Please submit your order no later than Oct 15, 2024. Signs are also available in SPANISH. __Please note on Order Form if your Council needs signs in SPANISH.

Please PRINT All Order Information

Council name and number: _____

Council contact person: Name: _____

Phone number: _____

Email address: _____

Shipping information: (Must be a residential or business address, no P.O. Boxes please!)

Ship to: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____

Qty of signs _____ x \$3.50(+ Qty of Magnets _____ x \$2.25 e) = Total enclosed \$ _____

Destinations served by our planned, regional drop ship locations: South WI, North IL.

Outside areas Will incur shipping costs. Please call. We will provide that modest cost at time of order.

Please make your check payable to RJEnterprizes -no credit cards, and mail to:

RJEnterprizes, c/o Larry Raupp, 300 Brookstone Dr., Lake Mills, WI 53551

If you have questions about the program, _____ please send your email to
keepchristinchristmassigns@gmail.com or rjenter@charter.net or call (9202859184).



WISCONSIN

HOW TO WRITE ARTICLES

Newsorthy • Broad Appeal • Concise • Complete • Factual • Accurate
Answers the Questions: Who, What, When, Where, Why, & How

- ▷ Articles should contain a minimum of **300 words** (*ideal*) but no more than **600 words max**. Articles that are longer than this may be shortened by the editor.
- ▷ Articles should be submitted to the State Secretary by email as a Word document attachment.
 - ▷ PDF submissions are for **ads** or **promotions**, not **articles**.
- ▷ Pictures need to be sent separately as an attachment and the original pictures. Include photo information and credits. **Please do not format them in any way; we will do it.** Do not embed them within your Word document. Consider providing photos whenever possible. It makes the newsletter more interesting to look at and read.
- ▷ Articles need to be brief, highly relevant, and actionable.
- ▷ At a minimum, Who, What, When and Where needs to be in the **first** paragraph.
- ▷ Articles need to be brief, to-the-point and **of interest** to the entire State Council:
 - ♦ What is the event/activity about?
 - ♦ Whom did it benefit?
 - ♦ What was the result?
 - ♦ Who are the key players/Knights?
- ▷ Similar story submissions will be consolidated/batched into one article by the editor.
- ▷ Authors must submit **on time** for each issue, which is the **last day of the calendar month**. Late submissions will be placed farther down the newsletter or not published.
- ▷ Proofread your article carefully for spelling and grammar before sending (use spellcheck or a software such as Grammarly). **Advice:** read your articles out loud to get a sense of tone.
- ▷ There is no need to put two spaces after periods for new sentences. That is an outdated method!
- ▷ Please name your filenames with your name, title, and newsletter month (e.g. Hopper, Joshua_Editor_Jan24).
- ▷ Please send me any questions at jjhoppermusic@gmail.com. I always accept feedback and recommendations on ways I can improve the newsletter, though I can not guarantee all ideas will be able to be implemented.



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**In service to One.
In service to all.**

