

# BADGER BULLETIN

APRIL 2025



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## EDITOR'S NOTES

### JOSHUA HOPPER



**BROTHERS IN CHRIST, I** am formally reaching out to as your newsletter editor. For a little over a year now, I have had the distinct pleasure in producing a yearly publication for our state councils. It fills me with me great pride, and I hope you have enjoyed the publications.

Moving forward, I want to continue to maintain and improve upon the high publication standards I impose upon myself. In order to ensure that I can produce a high-quality publication, please follow the guidelines listed below when writing your articles:

- ▷ Articles should be kept to **300-500** words. The newsletter's online format allows for a one-page viewing experience. Having to move the article to another page interrupts the reading experience.

- ▷ Articles should be submitted to the State Secretary or to the PR email address. Send articles as Word docs. PDF formats make articles harder to edit. However, those formats are appropriate for ads.
- ▷ Pictures are great additions to articles to create interest! If you include pictures, please send them as separate, clearly labeled documents. Include photo information and credits. **Please do not format or embed them in any way.**
- ▷ With the new merger of the newsletter and the Badger Bulletin, don't feel obligated to provide an article **every** month. If you do not have anything **new** to add for our membership, it's okay to go a while without an article.
- ▷ Articles must be submitted **on time** for each issue, which is the **last day of the calendar month**. Late

submissions will be inserted in the following month's newsletter.

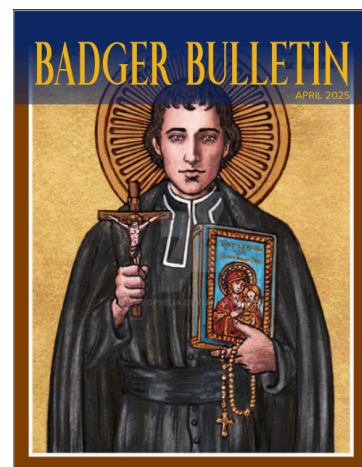
- ▷ Proofread your article carefully for spelling and grammar before sending (use spellcheck or a software such as Grammarly). **Advice: read your articles out loud to get a sense of tone.**
- ▷ There is **no need** to put two or more spaces after periods for new sentences. That is an outdated method!
- ▷ Please name your filenames with your name, title, and newsletter month (e.g. Hopper, Joshua\_Editor\_Jan24).

Thank you for taking these considerations to heart! If you have any questions, you can always email me at [jjhoppermusic@gmail.com](mailto:jjhoppermusic@gmail.com)

*Vivat Jesus!*

## ON THE COVER:

St. Louis de Montfort was born Louis Maie Grignon in Montfort, France, in 1673. He started as a chaplain in the 1700s in a hospital in Poitiers and later started his congregation called Daughters of Divine Wisdom. Pope Clement XI appointed him as a missionary apostolic when St. Louis de Montfort left France given the complaints he received regarding his missions and sermons. One thing he is most known for is his devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary and the rosary, founding the Missionaries of the Company of Mary in 1715. His book "The Secrets of the Rosary" is a widely-known book that belongs on every Catholic's bookshelf. St. Louis de Montfort was canonized in 1947.



## STATE DEPUTY PATRICK REIFF



**BROTHER KNIGHTS ALL:**  
**MARCH IS HISTORICALLY OUR**  
strongest month for intake, and we are hoping to exceed our prior monthly March average of 118 new members. At the time of preparing this article, we are at March 20th. and our intake to date is 99 with 7 reporting days remaining. Only 20 more to exceed that average. Our councils have a good number of church drives and programs still scheduled, and we should easily exceed the average.

I also hope every council celebrated our Founders Day on March 29th.

Again, a reminder to register for our Annual State Convention that will be held on May 16th – 18th at the KI Center in Green Bay. You can easily register on our state website. This is also a part of being an active council.

The season of Lent is a time for reflection, prayer, and renewal. Lent is an opportunity for us to deepen our faith, seek forgiveness, and strive to live more closely in accordance with the teachings of Christ. During this period, I encourage all members to engage in acts of charity and service, both within our councils and in the broader community.

It is through these actions that we can truly embody the principles of our order and make a meaningful impact on the lives of those around us.

We have instituted two new councils in March, a new Hispanic Council 18664, and a new College Council 18673. Congratulations to

our NCD Team members & please join me in welcoming our new council members.

In the Fisher of Men Supreme's Council Banner Incentive, we have 2 councils already achieving that incentive of reaching 125% of goal by the end of March. There is still time to qualify for the Banner.

In closing, as a state, know that we are improving over the last year but are not yet where we need to be as of the end of February.

We still have many councils that have not brought in a new member. We need every council active if we are to ensure our future works are carried out for many years to come.

What is required to be considered an active council? When you bring in at least one new member this year you are considered an active council.

Looking forward to meeting you during my travels throughout the State.

*Vivat Jesus!*



## STATE CHAPLAIN FR. BRIAN DULLI



**THE DAYS OF OUR** Lord's passion, death, and resurrection are approaching. I urge you all in Christ Jesus to make the most of the Holy Week services. If you have never attended the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, it would be of great benefit to your soul. In that Mass, Jesus Christ teaches us about the sacrificial love that established the priesthood. As momentous as the Cross of Jesus is, he wants us to know that his gift of salvation is always personal.

Jesus thrives on taking care of the people he loves. He calls us his

friends. Jesus means every word that He says. Our Lord washed all of the disciples feet, one by one. Jesus teaches His disciples to wash the feet of their disciples too. Christian life is about trust. Do we trust Jesus to let Him touch our lives with His grace? Do you allow Jesus to become incarnate for you in the ways that you need?

We can never exhaust God's love. Once they had a taste, all of the disciples wanted to follow Jesus to the cross. They were frightened. All of the disciples hid except for St. John the Beloved. He allowed the tenderness of Jesus to touch his heart in ways that hadn't happened yet for the other. John is there with Mary, the Mother of Jesus. These two stand as witnesses to the perfection of Christ's sacrifice, once for all. Together they give testimony for all generations of the perfecting

sacrifice that perfects the Gospel message. As we gather on Good Friday, each of us takes part in witnessing that the Blood of Jesus was the necessary atonement for our sins.

Let us put every priority on worshipping well in these days leading up to Easter. If we hope to rise with Jesus Christ, we also must take up our crosses. We can be thankful for the cross of Jesus operating in our lives. Be thankful for Jesus himself. He invites us to step forward boldly as we live our commitment of faith. Jesus rewards those who take his words to heart and seek his salvation every day. Lent is a time for our commitment to excellence to shine. Jesus has given us everything. Let us make sure that we each have the faith and live it to the fullest.

*Vivat Jesus!*



# Spotlight

***MONSIGNOR BLECHA COUNCIL #2055 DONATE  
MONEY TO FAMILY AFFECTED BY FIRE.***



## MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR COREY COONEN



**ONE OF THE INTERESTING** things about serving in various roles with the State Council over the past few years—as State Deputy and then as Membership Director—is that I have a vast number of Newsletter Articles from prior years to harken back on.

Looking back on my article from last year this time, I noted that we needed about 400 new members to reach our Circle of Honor goal and that we had trended about 10% behind the prior year in 2022-2023 to that date.

Well, as I write this article with about a quarter to go, we are doing better than the prior year and are at roughly 72% of our intake goal, needing about 350 new members these next three months to reach our

Circle of Honor Goal once again. We are ranked as the 4th overall in Division 2 (of 11 Jurisdictions) 31st overall out of 75 Jurisdictions, so in the top 40%, which is the highest we have been since 2022 when we ranked as the 4th overall in Division 2 and 29th overall. We have the opportunity to surpass last year's intake before we get to State Convention in Mid May—and our success will be a result of every Council taking advantage of this last quarter and leaving no 'stone' unturned. We have many councils that can still achieve their membership quota set by Supreme and potentially become a Star Council. We have as well roughly 120 councils that have yet to bring in a new member—what a great opportunity for every council to become active in bringing in at least 1 new member these last three months. If every council brings in just one new member, we will reach our goal (as we will also have some e-members join).

Approaching every eligible Catholic man, and giving them the

opportunity to join the Knights will be the key to this! I hope all of you take the following quote to heart: that regardless of age, every man can be offered the opportunity to join the Knights that was shared for so many years by Jim Stachura. Some of you may know Jim from his many years of service as a Field Agent and helping establish new councils throughout Wisconsin. Jim passed away just yesterday, at the age of 82 after faithfully serving the Knights for the last 54 years! Over hundreds of men are Knights today because of Jim's effort in approaching, engaging, and welcoming them to join the Knights!

This Lent is a great opportunity to take advantage of approaching these men during Mass and inviting them to pursue the effort of giving them this great opportunity to join the Knights. Jim believed that the Knights can help lead us all on the path to heaven! I look forward to the day in the future where we all are once again in the presence of Jesus Christ with Jim at our side!

*Vivat Jesus!*





# Spotlight

## ***BUILDING OUR CORE VALUES ONE RAMP AT A TIME***

In a heartwarming demonstration of unity and service, two Knights of Columbus councils—Council #2487 of Oconomowoc, Milwaukee Diocese, and Council #1478 of Madison Diocese—joined forces to assist a brother in need by constructing a handicap-accessible ramp. This inspiring collaboration highlights the core values of our Order: charity, unity, and fraternity.

The recipient of this thoughtful gesture, a former Grand Knight of Council #2487 and now a dedicated member of Council #1478, found himself in need of improved accessibility at his home. Understanding the urgency of the situation, both councils worked together seamlessly to make it happen.

Through generous donations from members of both councils, all the necessary lumber and building materials were provided to complete the project. The joint effort showcased not only the resourcefulness and dedication of the Knights but also their deep commitment to helping their brethren during challenging times.

This cooperative endeavor also serves as a powerful reminder of the strength we have when councils come together for a shared purpose. It reflects the spirit of brotherhood that binds us all, transcending diocesan boundaries and fostering mutual support.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the members of Councils #2487 and #1478 who contributed their time, resources, and skills to make this project a reality. Together, they have made a lasting impact, embodying the mission of the Knights of Columbus to serve those in need.

**Ron Wetzel**  
Grand Knight



## IMMEDIATE PAST STATE DEPUTY *JOHN HUTTENHOFF*



**AS OF MARCH 25**, we have assigned a total of 497 new E-members since July 1. This is 25% more than all of the prior Fraternal Year, and we still have 3 months to go. So far Councils have transferred 383 E-members into Councils this Fraternal Year. Roughly 50% of Council Intake this year has been through E-members. Currently just over 30% of the Councils in Wisconsin have used Online Membership to bring new members into the order this year. Thank you to all the Councils that are utilizing E-membership to grow their membership.

Cards with the QR Code to join online are available from Supreme. These can be very helpful when inviting men to join. Your Diocesan Membership Directors and District Deputies should be able to help you get these cards if you need them.

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

The **PROSPECT** tab shows you e-members that have joined online via the Supreme app. and the date field is used to transfer them into your Council when they have completed their exemplification. With E-membership, new members enter their own data, and then confirm their membership when they receive an e-mail from Supreme. These E-members are then part of the State Council, and get assigned to a local Council. Until the local FS enters the Exemplification date, these members remain part of the State Council. Local Councils get credit for them when the Exemplification date is entered by the FS to transfer them into your Council. Prospect tab training is available [here](#).

Supreme presented a Webinar in December on Transferring online members to council membership - The link for that webinar is [here](#).

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 can best be described as an online Form 100. 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's records. If you must use a Form 100, Scan it and email it to Supreme. Keep the Original for your Council Records. Since Form 100's must be manually processed at Supreme, they can lead to data entry errors and delays. Utilizing E-membership or the Candidate Tab for new members are the preferred ways to bring in new members.

If you have any questions or concerns, contact me. I am in your State Directory.

*Vivat Jesus!*

# STATE PROGRAM DIRECTOR

## JIM BURKHART



**AS THIS LETTER IS** being written we are heading towards the Easter Vigil. Let us remember that Jesus died for us on the cross. Blessed Father McGivney also followed Jesus by starting the Knights of Columbus. Those who get involved with the Knights of Columbus experience a new uplifting in their and their family life.

The programs that we started during lent: prayer groups, fish fries, adoration, etc can be continued and expanded throughout the year.

As we begin our first month of spring let us consider helping the elderly with acts of kindness. We could help them around their home with washing windows, raking their lawn, just walking with them on an adventure.

The last Sunday in April is Divine Mercy Sunday (April 27th). Do we have events scheduled for that day?

The College council in Madison (6568) will be hosting an outdoor Mass celebrated by the Bishop,

then a procession around the State Capitol with treats afterwards!

Please let me know what programs that your council has set up for Sunday. I would urge your council to submit all of your reports so every council can win the Columbian Award. Those councils who elect not to receive the awards just say so and we will not give them to you. Please submit all reports to Supreme so they have a record of what activities your council have done throughout the fiscal year. Please send them to the State as well ([forms@wikofc.com](mailto:forms@wikofc.com)) as well as your District Deputy.

I am looking forward to seeing you at the convention and.

*Vivat Jesus!*

### SACRED HEART OF JESUS ICON SCHEDULE TILL END OF JUNE 2025

	Green Bay Diocese		La Crosse Diocese		Madison Diocese		Milwaukee Diocese		Superior Diocese	
	#177		179		172		#218		176	
Receiving Date	Council	District	Council	District	Council	District	Council	District	Council	District
Tuesday, March 4, 2025	17348 Green Bay	8	839 La Crosse	25	9082 Madison Cathedral	44	1709 South Milwaukee	65	16691 Superior	91
Tuesday, March 11, 2025	4505 Green Bay	8	16444 La Crosse	25	10893 Madison	44		65	7106 Superior	91
Tuesday, March 18, 2025	617 Green Bay	8	10914 Onalaska	25	4586 Madison East	44		65	499 Superior	91
Tuesday, March 25, 2025	6464 Oneida	8	9438 Bangor	25	16863 Monona	44		65	12738 Iron river	91
Tuesday, April 1, 2025	7498 Ashwaubenon	8	9385 Holmen	25	7775 Cottage Grove	44	4614 Milwaukee	65	6702 Washburn	80
Tuesday, April 8, 2025	3955 De Pere	8	6487 Trempealeau	25	4879 Sun Prairie	51	6883 Marquette U.	65	832 Ashland	80
Tuesday, April 15, 2025	10552 Green Bay	13	11832 Fountain City	31	6460 De Forest	51		69	669 Hurley	80
Tuesday, April 22, 2025	10243 Green Bay	13	1654 Arcadia	31	6997 Poynette	51		69	7132 Butternut	80
Tuesday, April 29, 2025	11834 Green Bay	13	2825 Whitehall	31	1609 Columbus	51		69	2639 Park Falls	80
Tuesday, May 6, 2025	5382 Green Bay	13	2787 Independence	31	1669 Waterloo	51	5436 Theinsville	69	3557-Minocqua	85
Tuesday, May 13, 2025	16333 Bellevue	13	6789 Alma	31	6690 Lake Mills	48	4520 Cederburg	69	7827 Woodruff	85
Tuesday, May 20, 2025	4735 Denmark	13	5193 Mondovia	22	1478 Watertown	48	2035 Port Washington	66	5415 Eagle River	85
Tuesday, May 27, 2025	5844 Luxenburg	13	10774 Augusta	22	12709 Sullivan	50	1964 West Bend	66	2032 Rhinelander	85
Tuesday, June 3, 2025	17149 Dyckesville	4	12468 Altoona	22	1864 Jefferson	50	12321 Lomira	66	1133 Merrill	90
Tuesday, June 10, 2025	6444 Brussels	4	1257 Eeu Claire	22	15229 Cambridge	50	11301 Campbellsport	66	9608 Rib Lake	90
Tuesday, June 17, 2025	2478 Sturgeon Bay	4	2422 Durand	22	3396 Fort Atkinson	50	722 Sheboygan	61	1744 Medford	90
Tuesday, June 24, 2025	4896 Sister Bay	4	15739 Plum City	32	6547 Milton	50	11129 Sheyboygan Falls	61	2963 Philips	90
Tuesday, July 1, 2025	2210 Algoma	4	5456 Ellsworth	32	596 Janesville	49	1789 Plymouth	61	6560 Gilman	90
Tuesday, July 8, 2025	2984 Kewaunee	4	7342 Prescot	32	9230 Janesville	49	9685 Fond Du Lac	61	2481 Ladysmith	83



## FOURTH DEGREE JACK WRBANICH & DUANE ZABOROWSKI



**THIS IS A WONDERFUL** year to step up and join the Patriotic Degree of the Knights of Columbus and become a Sir Knight. The Eastern District of Wisconsin is hosting an exemplification on April 12, 2025 in Kenosha and it is not too late to join. Please reach out to Master Jack Wrbanich to get registered for this event. The Western District is hosting an exemplification on May 10, 2025 in Merrill. Still plenty of time to get your paperwork together and register for this event. Smaller exemplifications are occurring in the Western District in La Crosse on May 3, 2025 and Watertown on May 18, 2025 that are more geared to only local participation but all are welcome to join. This is the 125th anniversary of the Patriotic Degree. Please consider joining and be a part of this historic class. Fall exemplifications will also be held in October if unable to join now. (More information to follow in the summer.)

Honor Flights are again returning for the spring with the

first ones being held in April in Milwaukee, Madison and

Central Wisconsin (Mosinee) followed up by a number of flights in May at various locations. Type in Honor Flights in Wisconsin into your browser and look them up for specific details. Be there to welcome back our veterans when they return from their visit to Washington DC and the various Memorials.

Finally, we want to encourage participation in the Honor Guard. Some locations in the state do not have many men with the uniform. We encourage you to look for options to grow that number so that we can participate in events such as funerals for Brother Knights, Masses with our Bishops and clergy, parades and other veteran events and events with our school children. The Fourth Degree Honor Guard can stand in honor of a Brother Third Degree Member at his funeral, his spouse's funeral, his parents' funerals and his children's funerals if asked by the family. We are not only for Fourth Degree members. But to



do this, we need you to consider getting the uniform. I know many of you still have objections. But remember, we all took an oath of obedience to our superior officers in the Knights of Columbus and they have made their decision 10 years ago to switch. Let's all tone down our objections and get the official uniform so that we can show that we are the **Knights of Columbus, proud and strong!** Together, we defend our faith, our families and our nation!

*Vivat Jesus!*

# CULTURE OF LIFE

## DAN MILLER



### ULTRASOUND PROJECTS

St. Gianna Clinic in De Pere, Our Lady of Hope Clinic in Madison, and Women's Care Center – (Farwell Ave) Milwaukee and New Day Women's Clinic – Delavan & CareNet Dane County – Madison. Congratulations to Council(s) #10714, #17889, #3562, #1647 & #4586 for your leadership on these ultrasound initiatives. If your council would like to help, please send your checks to the address listed at the bottom of this page.

### SPECIAL OLYMPICS

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 next statewide events. Their Polar Bear Plunge is very popular all over the state. If there is one near you, why not encourage your council to get involved. Click here for more [information](#).

### ASAP GRANTS

Hopefully the month of March 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!](#)

### MARCH FOR LIFE

Mark your calendars for Saturday, June 14, 2025, from 2-4pm @ the State Capitol! All four pro-life organizations are collaborating on this project. [Please show your support.](#)

*Vivat Jesus!*

#### St. Maria Goretti Council # 17889

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#### Fr. Claude Allouez Council #10714

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#### Kettle Moraine Knights of Columbus #3562

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#### Lake Geneva Council #1647

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#### St Joseph Council #4586

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## STATE ADVOCATE

### DAVID KREUTZ



**IT WAS EARLY JANUARY** in the heart of Wisconsin, where the cold rolling hills meet the frozen lakes. The Knights of Columbus stand united, dedicated to the mission of faith, community service, and compassion. Each year, this esteemed organization channels its efforts into supporting individuals with intellectual disabilities. With the aid of its local councils, the Wisconsin Knights of Columbus transform generosity into tangible support—building bridges toward a more inclusive community.

On January 4, 2025, members of the Knights of Columbus' Intellectual Disabilities (I.D.) Committee gathered at a local parish in Plover, WI. The atmosphere buzzed with a shared commitment to uplift those who often face barriers in society. The committee, composed of volunteers from various dioceses across the state, was meeting to approve grants for programs directly impacting the lives of individuals with intellectual disabilities. They would soon have a profound effect in many towns and cities across the state.

As the meeting commenced, the members sifted through a hefty stack of grant requests, each detailing passionate aspirations to enhance program offerings. The collective focus was on empowering individuals and fostering a sense of belonging. Bennie Green, the ID Committee Chair, led the proceedings, reminding everyone of the importance of their mission and the lives they were about to positively impact.

In an unwavering show of generosity, the committee approved a total of \$115,000 to be distributed among 29 worthy initiatives.

One of the standout projects was Miss Amazing, an event dedicated to showcasing the talents of girls with disabilities. With a grant of \$9,000, the event would provide a venue, awards, and support for the day, creating an atmosphere of celebration and acceptance that will light up the lives of many participants.

Another heartwarming grant was directed towards Easter Seals Wisconsin, which received funding for ten camperships. These grants would enable children and adults to attend camps designed specifically for their needs, fostering lifelong friendships and invaluable experiences.

The Arc of Racine County was buoyed by a grant of \$2,350 to assist in program expenses and transportation costs. Having access to tablets for learning purposes would enable participants to explore

a new world of knowledge, stimulating both mind and spirit.

Across the state, programs like Best Buddies, Life Navigators, and Washington County Birth to 3 received funding to address unique needs, from organizing dances and tailgate events to supporting early intervention strategies for children, respectively. Each dollar allocated represented hope, recognition, and empowerment for individuals who might otherwise feel overlooked.

In the southeastern part of the state, Shepherds College received a grant for essential appliances, ensuring their students could enjoy a unique and enriching educational atmosphere. Meanwhile, in the far southwest of the state, the Opportunity Center celebrated its grant of \$10,000 directed towards repairing loading docks—an improvement vital to its operational efficiency and the well-being of those served.

The echo of approval wrapped warmly around the room as motions were passed: \$4,800 for a trip to Disney on Ice offered an unforgettable experience to clients of The Arc of Dodge County; \$5,000 for a sensory room at Horace Mann would create a haven for students needing specialized tools for learning; and \$4,000 for You Belong ensured that basic educational supplies were in the hands of those who would thrive with them.

*Continued on page 14.*





As the meeting concluded, Chairman Green conveyed his appreciation to the Knights of the ID Committee and the State Officers, underscoring their substantial influence throughout Wisconsin on individuals with intellectual disabilities. He highlighted that these grants serve as a powerful reminder of our dedication and compassion in supporting the community and transforming the lives of those with intellectual disabilities.

Feeling the weight and responsibility of their actions, each committee member left with a renewed sense of purpose. They understood that the impact of their decisions would ripple throughout their communities, offering not just support but also dignity and inclusion to those who needed it most.

Thus, through the efforts of the Councils of the Wisconsin Knights of Columbus, a tapestry of support was woven throughout the state,

uniting communities and uplifting lives, reminding everyone that with unity and a helping hand, we are all stronger together. Through their collective service, they not only shine a light on those with intellectual disabilities but also inspire others to fulfill their own roles in building a society led by faith, compassion, and respect.

*Vivat Jesus!*

## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS POLITICAL GUIDELINES

**I HOPE THIS MESSAGE** finds you in good spirits. I am writing to clarify an important matter regarding our organization's stance on political endorsements, especially as discussions surrounding candidates for state and federal office continue.

As loyal members of the Knights of Columbus, it is our duty to uphold the integrity and mission of our Order, which is grounded in Catholic values and focused on charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism. It is crucial to understand that the Knights of Columbus is a strictly nonpolitical organization. This guideline is clearly outlined in Article II, Section 189 of the Knights of Columbus Laws and Rules, which states:

**"The Order is strictly nonpolitical, but its members are not prohibited from participating in political affairs as individuals;**

**they are, however, admonished that they represent themselves only and not the Order."**

This means that while each of you is free to express your personal political beliefs as individuals, endorsing specific candidates or political parties during Knights of Columbus meetings or through official channels is strictly prohibited.

Moreover, our nonpolitical status is essential in maintaining our designation as a 501(c)(3) organization, along with our subordinate councils classified as 501(c)(8) under the IRS guidelines. Engaging in political activities—beyond personal advocacy—could jeopardize our tax-exempt status and compromise the integrity of the Knights of Columbus as a charitable organization.

I recognize and appreciate your commitment to causes that align with our Catholic values, such as pro-life issues. However, it is critical that we navigate these issues responsibly, ensuring our actions reflect the values we cherish without compromising the foundational rules of our Order.

I encourage all members to think creatively about how we can promote our principles and engage in meaningful discussions within the framework established by our Supreme Council. Should you have any questions or need further clarification regarding these guidelines, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Thank you for your understanding and for your continued dedication to our mission.

*Vivat Jesus!*

## FAITH DIRECTOR DENNIS BEDNAREK



**PSALM SUNDAY IS APPROACHING,** the start of the Holiest week in the Church. Holy week revolves around Holy Thursday, which is the celebration of the First Eucharistic Supper, followed by the events leading to the Passion of Christ on Good Friday, and the Resurrection on Easter Sunday. This is a great time to thank the Lord for sending us his only Son for the forgiveness of our sins.

We still have time as Knights to consider what we can do as a Council to help our parish in these holiest of times. As individuals we also need to celebrate this week to the best of our individual ability. One of the precepts of our church tells us that every Catholic needs to practice the Sacrament of Reconciliation annually and preferably during the Easter Season.

This is also the time where I'm preparing for the State Convention next month. In preparation I'm asking all councils to look through their records and if they have any pictures of Faith Activities from this fraternal year to please [send them to me](#). I'm working on updating the display boards from last year to

highlights our activities of Faith in our Parishes.

### **Sacramental Gifts**

The first point of importance is that state has ordered and received a shipment of 750 YouCat bibles and 300 of another item that will be introduced at the State Convention. As I have mentioned in the past, I hope to expand the Sacramental Gifts program. New samples will be available at Convention at the same price of \$12.50 as the current YouCat bibles. They are available and can be ordered for delivery by Easter or preferably at the State Convention. Please get your orders to me quickly so I can get your order on time.

### **Sacred Heart of Jesus Icon**

On March 4th the Pilgrim Icon of the Sacred Heart of Jesus began its journey through the councils in Wisconsin. It should have had services in 20 of our Wisconsin Councils however upon reviewing the 10784 I have only seen 2 forms submitted so far.

There were some mistakes made on the original schedule. Most were typos as I was transferring the data but there were also some councils that were listed who were inactive and other newer councils were missed. I'm asking that the master till July 8th be published with this newsletter to assure everyone has the correct schedule for the next few months. This schedule can be found on page 10. The full schedule will be available at the convention.

I'm asking every Council to review the Family program with the Sacred Heart Icon so they can also present it when they have their service in their parishes. This is a fantastic program which I believe your Chaplains and Pastors will be delighted to have in their parishes supporting family prayer in their homes.

### **Silver Rose**

The Journey of the Silver Rose will begin when the Iowa Jurisdiction transfers the Silver Rose to the Wisconsin Jurisdiction on Sunday July 13th at Dubuque Iowa. From there it will be transferred to the Illinois Jurisdiction on August 9th. Currently, I have created two separate routes for the Silver Rose through Wisconsin however I'm waiting for the word from Illinois to lock in where we will transfer the Silver Rose.

When I release the first pass of the Rose I will send the route to the GK's and DD's of the councils involved and wait for their acceptance of the dates before making it final. As in the past I do expect some councils to refuse it on their selected dates do to Parish schedules. I also had more councils requesting it on weekends then we have weekends with the Silver Rose.

The final schedule will be available at convention as well as sent to all Grand Knights and District Deputies via flock notes.

*Vivat Jesus!*

## PROGRAMS DIRECTOR

### BILL FRAYER



**HOPE YOU ARE ENJOYING** spring weather where you are, though March seems rather of a lion this year. April is the  $\frac{3}{4}$  mark for the '24-'25 Fraternal Year. Hope you have achieved your goals for Community and Youth programs for the year in your journey toward the Columbian Award and Star Council. Congratulations to those who've made it or are well on the way.

If not, there's still three months left to accomplish it and many programs that can yet be easily done this spring! Do a spring jacket drive at the parish school or local community center. Get involved in a local Habitat project. Do a cleanup, paint up, fix up project for the parish buildings, grounds, cemetery, local park, etc. Run a fundraiser for Wheelchairs for refugees in Ukraine, Haiti, Christian areas of the Middle East and donate to chairs from the

proceeds. Update the plans of the Council, parish or community for tornado, flood disaster or home fire safety and evacuation plans in the parish or community. Do a highway or beach cleanup. Work with the fire department on a spring smoke/carbon monoxide detector check and battery replacement campaign. Run a blood drive. Do an Easter Egg Hunt, Community Easter Meal, Breakfast with the Easter Bunny with the proceeds going to some person, family or organization in need in the parish or community. Volunteer to help out with another event in town that benefits the parish or community. Lots that can be done here in April along with the usual ongoing ID Drive. (Remember to report your events on a Form 10784 to Supreme and the State Forms address.)

As to Youth Programs, State winners for the Culture of Life Essay Contest will be announced later in the month. Awards will be sent to Councils for distribution. Spring Soccer Challenge Contests are always in order in April. All the information and supplies needed can be found vis the State and Supreme websites. Results should

be sent promptly to your DPCs and State Forms address.

If not already held, Diocesan Knowledge and Free Throw Contests will be held in April. Check with your Diocesan Program Coordinator for details. The State Knowledge and Free Throw Contest will be held on Saturday, May 3 at Assumption High School in Wisconsin Rapids (445 Chestnut St.). Registration and practice for Free Throw will be 10-11 AM; announcements and competition start will be 11:15-11:30 AM. Contestants must bring their own practice ball! Math & Spelling registration will be 10:15-11:15 AM; announcements and competition start will be 11:30-11:45 AM. Contestants for all 3 events need to bring their orange travel card with them, completely and accurately filled out.

Have a great April. Easter blessings to you all! Hope to see as many of you as possible at the State Convention in Green Bay in May. Results of all State Youth Contest events, winning State Service Award entries and History Books will be on display at the Convention.

*Vivat Jesus!*



## STATE SECRETARY ROSS LARSON



# 143<sup>RD</sup> SUPREME CONVENTION WASHINGTON D.C. AUGUST 4–7, 2025

### WISCONSIN IS ALLOWED TEN

delegates to the Supreme Convention. The State Deputy and the Immediate Past State Deputy automatically serve as the first two delegates. The remaining eight delegates are selected by the vote of those delegates attending our State Convention. Delegates to the Supreme Convention must be 3rd Degree Knights, and at least half of the eight must be Insurance Members.

The Supreme Council reimburses Delegates per diem at \$400 per day for 3 days and mileage at \$.30 per mile one way.

Again this year, the Wisconsin State Council offers the opportunity for those seeking election to be Delegates to the Supreme

Convention, to submit a resume and nomination Statement to be posted on the State Website. This information allows the Councils the opportunity to know the delegates and who they were voting for prior to the State Convention. Delegates to the State Convention will meet during the Saturday afternoon session to nominate and elect deserving members who may represent them at the Supreme Convention. Per the State Council Bylaws, only seated Delegates can make nominations and have the privilege of a vote; although non delegates can be nominated. Previous delegates to the Supreme Convention should not seek a nomination in order that other members be given a similar

opportunity to serve as a Supreme Delegate. It is very desirable that Delegates to the Supreme Convention be Knights who have been extraordinary in promoting Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism in the Knights of Columbus. Upon returning, Supreme Delegates are expected to share their experiences at local Council. Assembly. District and Diocesan meetings. The Delegates to this State Convention should be made aware of this Knight's accomplishments by the nomination speech given on his behalf. Materials can be [emailed to me](#).

I look forward to meeting you at the KI Center next month.

*Vivat Jesus!*

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

