

# BADGER BULLETIN

AUGUST 2025



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# Restless Hearts

Joshua Hopper

**“THOU MOVEST US TO DELIGHT** in praising Thee; for Thou hast formed us for Thyself, and **our hearts are restless till they find rest in Thee.** Lord, teach me to know and understand which of these should be first, to call on Thee, or to praise Thee; and likewise to know Thee, or to call upon Thee” (Confessions, 1.1.5).

Saints come from all walks of life: young and old, rich and poor, outgoing or shy, man and woman, and everything else in between. Many of these saints speak to us for one reason or another and they encourage us to live a life pleasing to Our Father in heaven. I, for one—though I ultimately chose St. Francis as my confirmation saint—find myself relating to St. Augustine. I find his story enlightening.

First, his mother, St. Monica, prayed for his conversion and later became a saint herself. Secondly, despite the lifestyle that St. Augustine lived in his youth, he threw it all away and became a bishop and one of a Father of the Church. How extraordinary it is that God calls us all, sinners as we are, and truly wants us to live with Him in eternity.

I sometimes struggle with the thought that somehow I am worthy of God’s grace and love. However, such thoughts are detrimental and should not be entertained, not by anyone. Anyone who wishes to know God and to love God need to pray, read scriptures, follow sacred tradition, read the catechism, and do all they can to learn about our heavenly Father.

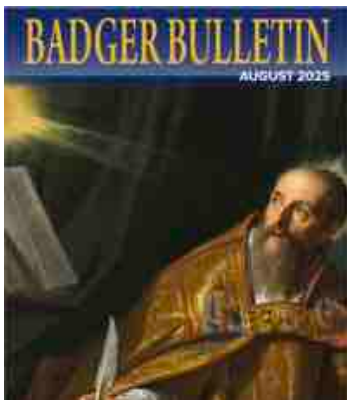
My bookshelf at home is filled with volumes on the Catholic faith and dust. This will no longer be the case! One of the first books on my list will be St. Augustine’s *Confessions*. God has a plan for all of us and I pray that each of you tirelessly search for that plan and live it through your respective councils.

*Vivat Jesus!*



## SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

- Keep articles below 500 words.
- Submit word docs to the PR email.
- Send photos separately, clearly labeled, with credits.
- Prioritize quality content with articles.
- Proofread thoroughly for spelling and grammar.
- Avoid double spaces after periods.
- Be punctual! Submit articles by the last day of the calendar month to avoid delays.



## ON THE COVER: ST. AUGUSTINE OF HIPPO

One of the most well-known Fathers of the Church, Augustine of Hippo was born Tagaste, Algeria in 354 AD. He led a hedonistic lifestyle in his early life, seeking worldly and sexual pleasures. He even had a son, Adeodatus, with a woman he loved and lived with for several years. Eventually, the influence his mother, Monica, had on his life led him to commit himself to the church. He was baptised by St. Ambrose when he was 33 and he vowed to live a life of celibacy. Over the course of his life, he wrote over 200 books and over a thousand letters, sermons, and other works. He died on August 28, 430 AD. His and mother’s feast days are both celebrated this month.



# A SPECIAL NOTICE FROM YOUR STATE DEPUTY

**OUR STATE HAS 65 DISTRICTS** spread across five dioceses. Each of these Districts require a District Deputy to represent the State Deputy in his assigned district.

At our recent Summer District Deputy Organization meeting in June, approximately 20 District Deputy positions became open due to the current District Deputies successfully fulfilling their 4-year term of service.

As Uncle Sam's poster stated: I WANT YOU.

I need motivated men that want to take the next step in their advancement with the Knights and become an active contributor to our mission.

Helping our council leaders and members become fully active & visible in supporting their communities,

parishes and priest throughout our 5 dioceses.

New District leaders bring new ideas that help the council's stay energized and involved in their communities.

This is your opportunity of a lifetime to be part of my team to keep our councils up to date on new initiatives.

If you are that person or know of another brother knight that exhibits dedication & leadership abilities and believes in the mission of Blessed Michael McGivney and the Knights of Columbus and wants to be part of our team to help our councils grow & adapt to the necessary changes in how we operate.

Please reach out to me and I can answer any questions you may have.

As a District Deputy, you directly represent the State Deputy in your district.

It has been referred to by all Former District Deputies as "The Best Job in the State".

Filling these open positions is a high priority of mine that needs to be completed during the first quarter of our fraternal year.

Looking forward to your call. Don't delay, Call today, You won't be disappointed.

*Vivat Jesus!*





**WE ARE OFF TO A VERY SLOW START** in this new Fraternal Year. As of July 25, we have assigned a total of 23 new E-members since July 1. This is less than half of the pace that we need to meet our State Goals. So far Councils have transferred 9 E-members into Councils this Fraternal Year. Roughly 36% of Council Intake this year has been through E-members. This is a significant drop-off from the prior Fraternal Year. We are better than this.

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.

### REMINDERS

WGK & WFS please frequently review your councils **Prospect** tab. Should you experience any difficulty with this process, please email me regarding these outstanding assigned e-members and I will gladly assist you.

Supreme presented a Webinar in December on Transferring online members to council membership which you can access [here](#).

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, keeping 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. **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.**

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

*Vivat Jesus!*

### PROSPECT TAB

The **Prospect** tab shows you e-members that have joined online via the Supreme app. 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 confirm their membership, and then 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.

**Clicking on this blue box will take you to the Prospect training.**

### CANDIDATE TAB

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.

**Clicking on this red box will take you to the candidate training.**



**I APOLOGIZE FOR NOT SUBMITTING** the July Membership article. I am still new at this position so please bear with me.

On the other hand, we had a slow start but as time goes on we are moving forward. We are a little behind from last year, but I am confident that we will catch up and pass our goal to date. I will be passing along again the 1st Quarter incentive to the councils, and the incentive is the same as last year's 1st. Quarter. Enjoy the warm weather. Fall is coming very soon.

*Vivat Jesus!*





**I AM LOOKING FORWARD** to seeing everyone at the September Diocesan meetings. We will be explaining the eight new programs that Supreme has announced in the **Faith in Action** categories:

- > Community: Bright Future / Celebrating Our Catholic Heritage
- > In Life: Holy Hour for Life

with Our Lady of Guadalupe / Gospel of Life

- > In Faith: Viva Cristo Rey / Imitating Juan Diego
- > In Family: Remembering Our Faithful Departed / Quinceañera Support

### **Program Focus: Boost Participation & Compliance**

Our popular Special Olympics, Coats for Kids, Tootsie Rolls, and Free Throw programs continue strong. Let's boost support for Camping, Bowling, and Golf, which need more exposure. Our Disaster Relief Program also needs attention; consider how we can extend help, as seen with the Janesville Knights or aid for California, Hawaii, and Texas disasters. Disasters strike anytime; our presence is crucial.

Involve parish families in your programs! Their participation shows the good we do and can encourage new members.

Youth can work alongside Knights, promoting youth programs for their well-being and our future councils.

### **Immediate Action Required:**

*Youth Safety Program:* Grand Knights, Deputy Grand Knights, Program Directors, and Community Directors must complete this Supreme-mandated training to work with youth.

*Fraternal Benefits Insurance Program:* Host two events. The first, by January 1, 2026, involves the Grand Knight and Deputy Grand Knight meeting with an insurance agent for a benefits presentation. The second needs at least 14 attendees (including parishioners) to learn about KofC benefits and membership value.

Remember to submit 10784 forms promptly after programs. Thank you to those who do!

### **Upcoming Opportunities:**

Consider events for Blessed Father McGivney's birthday (August 12) or death (August 14), or Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (August 15). Fundraise for Coats for Kids and promote the Essay Contest. Incorporate a new Supreme program.

**Keep your programs going! Programs = Memberships AND Memberships = Programs.**

**You asked. We delivered.  
Now, will you?**

***Fraternal Year 25/26 Schedule for  
GA-sponsored FBE (7:00 pm CST)***

**Thursday, July 31 ~ Matching Fraternal Benefits  
to Your Stage of Life**

**Wednesday, August 27 ~ Principles of Catholic  
Investing: You Make the  
Choice**

**Thursday, September 18 ~ Benefits You May Not  
Know About**

**Wednesday, October 29**

**Monday, November 24**

**Wednesday, December 17**

**Thursday, January 29**

**Wednesday, February 25**

**Thursday, March 26**

**Wednesday, April 29**

**Thursday, May 28**

**Wednesday, June 24**

**Mark your calendars and make plans.**

**Remember to invite the *entire* parish, making  
sure to get the invite in the church bulletin.**

**Get Educated.**

**Get Credit.**

**Have FUN!**



As we celebrate a new fraternal year, Western District Master SK Duane and I offer our sincere congratulations to all newly installed council and assembly officers across the state. Whether you are stepping into a leadership role for the first time or returning with experience and renewed purpose, your commitment to serve is what strengthens our Order and inspires those around you.

To our retiring officers—thank you. Your time, energy, and example have laid a strong foundation for your successors. Please know your dedication has not gone unnoticed, and your continued support is always welcome.

Last month, I shared a personal reflection with a few of our Eastern District Assemblies from the 2018 Supreme Convention in Baltimore, where I had the honor of helping raise Old Glory over Fort McHenry. That site—where our national anthem was born—reminded me of the sacrifices that have shaped this nation, and the enduring duty we share as members of the Patriotic Degree.

Just weeks before the defense of Fort McHenry, the British burned Washington, D.C. Many feared our capital would be lost entirely. But then, a sudden and violent storm swept through—extinguishing flames, scattering the invaders, and what some believe was an act of divine providence that saved the city. Shortly thereafter, the American flag still flew at dawn over the fort, a symbol of hope and resilience.

As newly installed officers, you are now the ones raising the banner. You lead your councils and assemblies through times of opportunity and challenge. May your leadership reflect the same courage and conviction that inspired the Star-Spangled Banner and continues to animate our mission as Knights—Pro Deo et Patria, for God and Country.

#### SAVE THE DATES – 2025 FOURTH DEGREE EXEMPLIFICATIONS

Mark your calendars and begin preparing now:

> **Eastern District Exemplification** – Saturday, October 18th, Beaver Dam

> **Western District Exemplification** – Saturday, October 25\*, Baraboo

These are key opportunities to grow the Patriotic Degree in your area. We encourage all Faithful Navigators and Grand Knights to begin identifying candidates now and promoting these events within your councils and assemblies.

Let us continue to serve boldly, lead faithfully, and keep the light of patriotism shining brightly in our communities.

*Vivat Jesus!*

## ULTRASOUND PROJECTS

Anchor of Hope in Plymouth (additional location) and St. Gianna Clinic in De Pere & CareNet Dane County – Madison & La Sagrada Familia Familia in Sabán Yegua, Dominican Republic. Congratulations to Council(s) #1069, #1789, #10714, #4586, & #15659 for your leadership on these ultrasound initiatives. If your council would like to help, please send your checks to:

### **Plymouth Council #1789**

Bryan Smith  
15 Grove Street  
Plymouth, WI 53073  
bryansmith1011@gmail.com  
(920) 838-3101

### **Fr. Chad Allouez Council #10714**

Peter Tillman  
3155 E. River Dr.  
Green Bay, WI 54301  
(920) 737-0630 C  
pltillman@gmail.com

### **St. Joseph Council #4586**

Charles Risler  
1102 Timothy Ave.  
Madison, WI 53716  
(608) 574-9935  
risler5@yahoo.com

### **George S. Schreier Council #1069**

Jon Kleist  
159033 Evergreen Road  
Wausau, WI 54403  
(725) 551-7850 C  
kleist1150@gmail.com

### **St. Lucy's Council #15659**

Earl Wirtz  
3101 Drexel Ave.  
Racine, WI 53403  
(262) 497-9159  
earlwirtz@mac.com

## NEED HELP WITH ULTRASOUND FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN?

There is a great pro-life organization out in Yelm, Washinton (state) called [4US](#). They will help with 25% of the cost of the ultrasound. YES! HALF of your council's obligation! Here's their [website](#).



## SPECIAL OLYMPICS OF WISCONSIN

The Wisconsin Knights of Columbus have agreed to have boots on the ground for all Special Olympics of Wisconsin (SOWI) statewide events. Please help get the word out to your members to volunteer!

### **FALL GAMES**

Friday, September 5: Chula Vista Resort Wisconsin Dells, 7 p.m. start time. Indoors. *Includes Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast (Sunday morning).*

### **ASAP GRANTS**

Hopefully the month of July left your council's checking account **empty** after giving away all your money to pregnancy centers in your area. For every \$500 your council or assembly donates to a pregnancy resource center or maternity home (up to \$2,000), the Supreme Council will donate \$100. But, you have to [apply for it!](#) It is always best to apply online, and if you need help, let me know and I'll help walk you through it. You can also provide me with 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. Displaying Choose Life License Plates on your car promotes the pro-life message, funds Pregnancy Resource Centers, and the extra \$25 fee is tax deductible if you itemize. More information [here](#).

## MARCH FOR LIFE WISCONSIN (RESCHEDULED)

Mark you calendars for Saturday, July 26, 2025 – 2-4pm @ the State Capitol! All four pro-life organizations are collaborating on this project. [Please show your support!](#)

*Vivat Jesus!*



**IT IS NOW AUGUST, WHICH MEANS IT'S TIME TO GET** those fall program plans set up and ready to operate full tilt in September. The first of those is our #1 community program—Coats for Kids. Some 300,000 coats were given away last year nationally, and we hope to do better in 2025! Once again, the State Council, in cooperation with Supreme, can offer coats at a price nearly 50% off for both boys and girls (\$145/case for toddler, child and youth sizes or \$175/case for teen and adult sizes). You'll need to get your orders in before September 15, the earlier the better! See State Coats Coordinator PSD Corey Coonan's email of July 26 to GKs and FSs for details on ordering or check the State website (State Council Store link). However you choose to secure your coats or other items to distribute, let's do a great job on this for 2025!

We continue to urge councils to (1) make plans to get involved in local Habitat projects and fundraisers for the fall and winter months, and (2) work together with neighboring councils or your district to hold fundraisers to purchase wheelchairs during the fall months. You can check out the Supreme website for more information on these two programs. Also, check with your pastor, school, and pastoral council for ideas on at least one Helping Hands project you can carry out, coordinate, or assist with this fall.

State Disaster Relief Coordinators Paul Shepherd and Don McInnes have several plans and goals they'll be talking about with you at the Diocesan Meetings in September. Right now, you'll want to be planning blood drives and disaster relief donations in your '25-'26 budget and determining a Disaster Relief Coordinator for your Council.

This year we have two new community programs from Supreme: "Bright Futures" and "Celebrating our Catholic Heritage." More information on these can be found [here](#). Print resources are available at Supplies Online.

For Youth programs, Punt, Pass, Kick is business as usual. Council window is July-September 30. Diocesan contests will be held October 3-19. The State Finals are TBD (likely in Wausau October 25, November 1 or 8). Travel cards will be available to Councils and DDs at the Diocesan Meetings in September.

Fall Soccer window is the same as PPK. If your Council runs Soccer this fall or did so last spring, make sure it is reported to me via Form 10784 or the form in the State Instruction packet ASAP. Diocesan and state contests will be held in the same windows as PPK if we get enough contestants to warrant holding them!

The Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest for 2025 topic is "Of the 287 popes who have led the Catholic Church, who are your 3 favorite ones and why?" Order your contest kit from Supreme Supplies Online. Get the information to schools, religious ed programs, homeschoolers, etc., in August and early September. Students are to write their essays in October and November. **They are due to Councils by December 15.** They are to be judged and 1st, 2nd place winners sent on to your DPC by December 31.

The Knowledge and Free Throw Contests will again be run as before, as will the Culture of Life Essay Contest and the Hockey Skills Challenge. I'll address those in more details next month. The Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest, though technically part of the "Family" program umbrella, will likely be run pretty much as it was last year. Our new Family and Poster Directors will have more on that in September.

The State Information packets for the youth contests are being updated in August and will be on the State website ASAP. I hope you have a great August.

*Vivat Jesus!*

**In service to One.**

**In service to all.**

