



BADGER BULLETIN

FEBRUARY 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 submit **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.

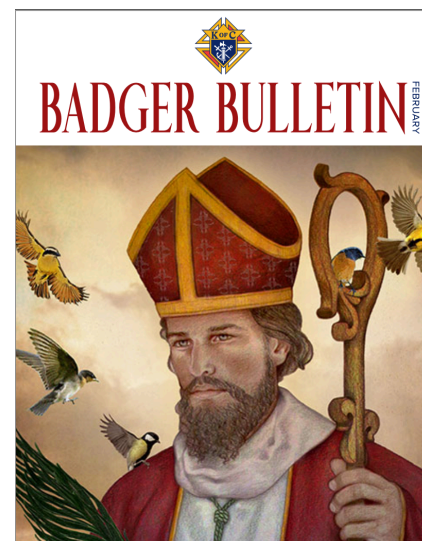
- ▷ Proofread your article carefully for spelling and grammar before sending (use spellcheck or a software such as Grammarly). **Advice: read your articles out loud to get a sense of tone.**
- ▷ There is **no need** to put two or more spaces after periods for new sentences. That is an outdated method!
- ▷ 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 jjhoppermusic@gmail.com

Vivat Jesus!

ON THE COVER:

St. Valentine is venerated in the Catholic Church and is widely associated with his namesake holiday, Valentine's Day, which is celebrated on February 14. He lived in the 3rd Century and was said to have administered to the faithful during the Christian persecutions in the Roman Colosseum. His patronage is Terni (a city in Italy), epilepsy, and beekeepers. In circa 269, St. Valentine was martyred and buried on the Via Flaminia. While still venerated in the Catholic Church and other Christian denominations, contradictory accounts of the details surrounding his life resulted in his feast day being removal from the Roman Catholic Church calendar in 1969.



STATE DEPUTY PATRICK REIFF



GREETINGS TO ALL AS we continue through the year 2025. I hope everyone had a Blessed Christmas & a Safe, Healthy and Happy New Year holiday.

In December, we held our Mid-Year Winter District Deputy Organizational Meeting in Stevens Point to bring our District Deputies up to date and to review their progress with their assigned councils for the first half of this fraternal year, and what direction we all need to pursue going into the second half.

Our goal is to stay On Mission with Blessed Father Michael McGivney's vision for the Knights of Columbus, providing Charity, Unity, Fraternity and to continue growing to ensure we are here to help those less fortunate for many years to come.

We were honored to have Past State Deputy (1998-2000) Wenzel Felber Jr. speak at our meeting. During PSD Wenzel's term, the

Wisconsin Jurisdiction was at 40,000 plus members strong, and every council and district was active in fulfilling the vision of Blessed Father Michael McGivney.

Since that time our membership has declined to approximately 34,000 mostly due to many of our senior members passing on and taking a place with our Lord in heaven. May they all Rest in Peace.

We also realize the period of time that we all dealt with the Covid epidemic which had an impact as well as we stopped meeting together, going to Mass, inviting new men to join and our community access was extremely limited.

The good news is that we are growing again. Last year over 90,000 men joined the order worldwide and Supreme expects to easily pass that number this year worldwide. Young men are willing to join.

A recent survey by Supreme noted over 2,000,000 young men would be interested in joining a fraternal organization, and the reason they have not joined is because they were never asked.

I will be directing our state team to see what may have changed in Wisconsin over the years that has hindered use from maintaining that

prior membership level. Your input is welcomed as well.

Supreme continues to offer a large variety of programs & webinars for us covering Life, Community, Family, and Programs in general to promote reasons for families to join and to get the men and their families back into supporting & living their faith & returning to Sunday Mass as a family.

The other area I will be addressing is how our state organizational structure is currently functioning in supporting each other and you, our entire membership in a timely & responsive manner.

We still have some open District Deputy & Diocesan Membership & Program Coordinator positions to fill and as a result those currently serving are spread too thin trying to cover those areas in addition to their own responsibilities. If you have the desire and interest in becoming more involved in our mission, let me know and I would be more than happy to discuss what opportunities are available.

Vivat Jesus!

STATE CHAPLAIN FR. BRIAN DULLI



AS ANOTHER YEAR BEGINS, let us remember that we have a short time in which to serve God. In his book, *Divine Intimacy*, (p. 100f), Fr. Gabriel of St. Mary Magdalen meditates on the swift passing of the days of our lives which never return. Each of us must make the most of the time given to us.

Fr. Gabriel describes the work that we each are given time to diligently carry out. It isn't just the work itself

that matters to God. God cares about the way that we conduct ourselves in our work. Most especially, each of us is responsible to undertake our work with love. At times we work well enough in the tasks that we are given, but still lack the fullness of love that we are capable of. Let us ask God to fill us with His divine charity. Fr. Gabriel says that God can restore all of the charity to our souls that we would have gained if we had acted such in the beginning. How good God is in His mercy.

Fr. Gabriel's reflection bids us to reflect on charity like it is an account that we accrue. When we acquire love, it is our own. Nobody can take it away. This is why St. Paul teaches that love is the greatest of all virtues.

Love will last forever into the glory of eternal life.

Thank you for allowing me to share from this meditation. It was one of the most powerful pieces I have read in quite a while. As we have reflected on the nativity of Jesus, let us also remember that we each need to pray for a rebirth of charity in our own souls. It is not enough simply for us to know that we are loved, even by God. Our souls desire still more. We are not satisfied until we see God's love rooted from within our own hearts. This is charity, the greatest of the many gifts of our Lord, Jesus Christ. As we examine our lives in this new year, let us ask Jesus to endow our souls with supernatural charity.

Vivat Jesus!





Spotlight

NEW ST. CARLOS ACUTIS COUNCIL #18542 HOSTS FIRST FREE THROW CONTEST



The first St Carlo Acutis Council #18542 Knights of Columbus Free Throw Contest was a resounding success! We had 48 participants and three divisions in which a tiebreaking "shootout" was required, one of which went to three shootouts!

Many thanks to Tom Telderer (not present in the attached pictures), James Napper, Patrick Simonis and Jeff Morzinski. We learned a lot and will take new ideas into next year's event, but hopefully this is something that will be on our Council's calendar for years to come.

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR COREY COONEN



I ATTENDED A RECENT

Confirmation Mass presided over by Bishop Ricken. His homily focused on one of our modern day saints, Saint Teresa of Calcutta. He spoke about how this kind soul, short in stature but larger than life went on to not only receive a Nobel Peace Prize but also establish a legacy of charitable works that will last many years into the future.

The message was clear to these confirmands: There may be a modern day Saint among any of them. Devoting our life to our Catholic faith and caring for those in need through charitable acts of kindness is a mission we should all have.

Bishop Ricken's homily also defines the mission we as Knights were charged with by Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly, which is to be **on mission** with our works of charity and to build our Knights of Columbus councils into the future.

As leaders in our parish communities, we need to make a point of growing our works of charity to attract more membership to our councils.

The stronger the councils are in our parishes, the more works of good deeds and helping hands we can provide. As we enter into this season of Lent in the coming weeks, I encourage all of our councils to engage and invite every eligible Catholic man in your parish to become Knights. More likely than not, these men have **not** been approached about joining the Knights in the past because of Age and Faith. New confirmands are **perfect candidates** as they have recently been welcomed and initiated into the Catholic Faith.

The Knights help make better men, and our invite can also help possibly make the new member a saint.

Vivat Jesus!

3RD QUARTER MEMBERSHIP INCENTIVE GOALS FOR COUNCILS

January 1 – March 31

- ▷ Councils with a goal of 5 or 6 new members for the year: need to bring in 3 new members to achieve incentive

- ▷ Councils with a goal of 7 or 8 new members for the year: need to bring in 4 new members to achieve incentive
- ▷ Councils with a goal of 9 or 10 new members for the year: need to bring in 5 new members to achieve incentive
- ▷ Councils with a goal of 11 new members for the year: need to bring in 6 new members to achieve incentive
- ▷ Councils with a goal of 12 new members for the year: need to bring in 7 new members to achieve incentive
- ▷ Councils with a goal of 13 new members for the year: need to bring in 8 new members to achieve incentive
- ▷ Councils with a goal of 14 or 15 new members for the year: need to bring in 9 new members to achieve incentive

INCENTIVE RESULTS

- ▷ Division 1 Council: \$100 reduction off of 4/1 per capita
- ▷ Division 2 Council: \$250 reduction off of 4/1 per capita
- ▷ Division 3 Council: \$500 reduction off of 4/1 per capita



Spotlight

NOW INTRODUCING...



KETTLE MORaine COUNCIL #3562 WELCOMES NINE!

Saint Charles church in Hartland hosted an exemplification on January 23 in which 9 men became brother knights. Welcome our new brothers to our fraternal order. Congratulations to WGK Tyler, Dale and their council brothers for all their efforts reaching out, recruiting and growing their council.

ARCHBISHOP JEFFREY S. GROB INSTALLED

Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus were present at the installation of Milwaukee Archbishop, Jeffrey S. Grob.



STATE SECRETARY
ROSS LARSON



Friday, May 16 – Sunday, May 18

Hyatt Regency

Green Bay, WI

2025 State Convention

2025 WISCONSIN STATE

CONVENTION is fast approaching, and plans are well underway. Who should attend the Convention? Chapter II, Section 12 of the Supreme Constitution provides that the State Council shall consist of two representatives of each of the subordinate councils within the State, and it is beneficial that each subordinate council in good standing have two representatives at the State Council Convention meeting each year. The State Council is not just the Officers. The State Council is all of us and your local Council needs to be represented.

Wisconsin State Bylaws ask that each subordinate council in

Wisconsin send two delegates to the convention.

- ▷ Delegates: Council shall have two (2) Delegates. Delegates must be the Grand Knight and a Past Grand Knight.
- ▷ Alternates: Council may have two (2) Alternates. Alternates can be any Third Degree member of the Council.

The Convention Delegate Certification Form, that was included in the forms packet, distributed by your District Deputy, is used to identify your Delegates and Alternates. It should be completed and returned to the State Office immediately after your council elects its Delegates and Alternates. The form is due by March 15, 2025.

Please know that each subordinate council in the Wisconsin Jurisdiction of the Knights of Columbus in good standing at the time of the 2025 State Council Meeting shall be entitled to have mileage reimbursed for the two Delegates who attend said State Council meeting at the rate established by the Supreme Council. The calculation will be from the distance necessarily traveled from the city in which their council is located to the convention and return, said expenses to be paid directly to said Council.

Please communicate this good information to your Council and make plans today.

Vivat Jesus!

FOURTH DEGREE DUANE ZABOROWSKI & JACK WRBANICH



THE FOURTH DEGREE OF the Wisconsin Knights of Columbus has two scheduled exemplifications in the months of April and May – April 12, 2025 on the Eastern Side (Kenosha) and May 3, 2025 on the Western Side. Both exemplifications will be special events honoring the 125th Anniversary of the Fourth Degree of the Knights of Columbus. These will be historic celebrations at each location with the goal of 125 (or more) new candidates at each location. Your challenge is to find those men that will become Sir Knights at these exemplifications. Master Jack Wrbanich and Master Duane Zaborowski realize that this is a large number of men as candidates, but we have the full support of the State Officers as well as Supreme. We ask all Assembly leaders to recruit 1-5 candidates to send to these events. We also ask each Council Grand Knight and Financial Secretary to also recruit 1-2 candidates to become Sir Knights. If everyone makes this attempt, we will be successful in achieving the goals set by Supreme. Please invite them

to take the degree. And if no one asks you directly – the Masters of Eastern and Wisconsin are asking you now!

If your Assembly or your Council has brother knights interested in joining the Fourth Degree, please contact Master Jack Wrbanich or Master Duane Zaborowski about the situation. Master Duane has a special exemplification scheduled on Sunday, January 12, 2025 near Superior. We will bring in Brother Knights into the 4th degree. If you can make that event, please reach out to Master Duane. This might be one of the final times to participate in the “old” exemplification as the degree will change effective February 23, 2025. Both the Eastern Master and Western Master will consider scheduling a local exemplification to get men into the 4th degree especially taking into account your location. We want the large exemplifications to draw large numbers of members, especially this year with the 125 challenge. But we also want to get men into the 4th degree. Please talk to your area Master to get more information.

The Fourth Degree is currently in the final two months of conducting a census of the entire membership of the Knights of Columbus, not just 4th degree but



ALL Knights, for establishing a record of service in the Korean and Vietnam Wars. We would also like to document service of deceased members for these two wars. For the Korean War, you need to have served between June 25, 1950 – July 27, 1953 and have been on permanent assignment or on temporary duty for 30 consecutive days or 60 non-consecutive days within the country of Korea. For the Vietnam War, you must have served between July 3, 1965 – March 28, 1973 and have been on permanent assignment or temporary duty for at least 30 consecutive days or 60 non-consecutive days in combat with a unit directly supporting military operations in Southeast Asia.

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FOURTH DEGREE CONTINUED



If your Assembly has not reached out to you (or your Council), please reach out to either your Assembly or to one of the Masters with the above information. We will need to know the years/dates in service and the branch of service.

The Masters have a deadline of February 28th to submit this information to Supreme.

Members of the Patriotic Degree are an integral part of the Order, and we serve our brother Knights, we proudly foster patriotism in each nation in which we are active and we act on what is right and honorable. Being an honor guard is only part of the 4th Degree. The uniform is what makes us visible but it is the other things that we do that will make us more visible as Knights. Without the uniform, you can still participate in funerals, masses, meals, helping the parish and the priests by doing some activities as 4th degree and others

with Council members. There is nothing that says a 4th degree Assembly cannot do a fundraiser for a pregnancy center and get the matching funds from Supreme. Help at a VA Center, work with your local Veteran groups, participate in the Valentines for Vets program with your local schools and deliver them to a veteran's home. These are a few examples of things you can do without the uniform.

Honor Flights from the state of Wisconsin will be resuming in the spring – stay tuned to future newsletters for exact dates and locations. You can support Honor Flights by making donations to support a veteran being on the flight, being in attendance when the flight returns from Washington DC and greeting their return or write letters to be given to the veterans at Mail Call on the flight.

Finally, a word to our Faithful leaders of our Fourth Degree

Assemblies. Remember, it is never too early to start completing the paperwork for the various awards such as the Patriotic Award and the Civic Award. The District Masters do realize that you do all this work and don't always get recognition for it. We know it is not about the recognition here on earth, but it does matter to Supreme. We have 55 Assemblies in the state of Wisconsin, we should have all 55 Assemblies receive one or both of the above awards which could then be delivered to your assembly by the Masters. It only takes a few minutes of your time to complete the paperwork. AND – remember to complete two more forms – a listing of your new Assembly officers by August 1st and your annual Assembly audit report. These last two are mandatory. Please complete them as soon as possible.

Vivat Jesus!



Spotlight

DISTRICT #28 - WAUSAU COUNCILS HOST COMPETITION



This was not a 4th degree function, but I want to congratulate all the Knights who helped put this on again this year. On Sunday, the Wausau & Schofield Knights hosted the Council competition for about 30 youth from the Wausau & Schofield areas. I personally received many thank you's from the youth & parents for what we do as Knights. At 1:30 p.m., the Regional competition ensued. There was a GREAT contingent of youth from the Marathon Council that joined into the competition. It was a sign of the great job also done at the Marathon Council.

It is good to see all these youth involved.

FAITH DIRECTOR DENNIS BEDNAREK



THE EUCHARIST REVIVAL IS

continuing. Last summer's Eucharistic Procession was just the beginning. This year starting at the doors of St. Peters, Pope Francis opened the doors starting the Jubilee Year. The Supreme Knight in consultation with the papacy decided to use the picture that hangs in the Gesu in Rome painted in 1767 by Pompeo Batoni as the next Icon. This Icon of the Sacred Heart of Jesu goes well with the Eucharistic Revival as it depicts the Suffering of Jesus for everyone and shows that Jesus is truly alive in the Eucharist. In addition to the adoration of the icon, we as Knights are asked to dedicate ourselves and our families to the Sacred Heart.

The great tradition of opening the Holy Door began when Pope Francis opened the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica on December 24, 2024, to open the Jubilee year. Pilgrims passing through the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica during the Holy Year 2025, going to confession, receiving Holy Communion and praying for the intentions of the pope can receive an indulgence. Other Holy Doors are

now open at the Rome basilicas of St. John Lateran, St. Mary Major, and St. Paul Outside the Walls. For pilgrims who cannot travel abroad, bishops around the world are expected to designate their Cathedrals or a popular Catholic shrine as special places of prayer for the Holy Year pilgrims.

Sacred Heart Icon. The Sacred Heart Icons have arrived in Wisconsin and we are currently waiting for the literature that will accompany the Icon which was promised by mid- February. Beginning in March, we will start to rotate the icons for one week in each Council to allow the maximum exposure in the parishes that the Council services.

The service, called "Sacred Heart Holy Hour," should include the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. Each service begins with song, scripture readings, reflections, the Divine Mercy Chaplet, the litany of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, an act of consecration to the Sacred Heart, benediction, and ends with concluding prayers. In the event that you have a Mass with the Sacred Heart icon, the scripture reading can be substituted or combined with daily scripture readings per the guidance of your Pastor. Each icon comes with a log book. Please ensure it is signed and secured in its case so that it can travel with the icon.

Included in the literature will be 200 Sacred Heart, Holy Hour

Booklets in English, Sacred Heart Prayer Cards and Sacred Heart Litany Prayer Cards. These can be ordered at no cost by the council if the supply is slowly being depleted or you if there is a need for Spanish editions. They are currently working on French and Polish but these are not currently available.

You can find detailed instructions as well as samples of posters and news releases on Supreme's web site under Pilgrim Icon Program. Remember, as with all faith programs, discusses the services with your pastor before the icon arrives at your location. When you do your service do not forget to invite the 4th Degree Honor Guard. They are the visible arm of the Knights of Columbus.

The actual schedule for the icon is included in this newsletter. A member of the State team will help with the transfer to the first Council, which includes the Cathedral of each Diocese in Wisconsin so the initial Council should communicate with their Bishop's staff on its arrival. The transfer between Councils will be the responsibilities of both the transferring and receiving grand Knights who may be assisted by their District Deputy. I spent many hours trying to develop the best route with the fewest inconveniences. I decided seven days with the icon provides each council with enough flexibility to suit their needs.

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Home Enthronement. The Home Enthronement Program allows individual families to enthrone an Image of the Sacred Heart in their Home and consecrate their family to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. A booklet explaining this program can be found on the same page as the Sacred Heart Program.

The ceremony of enthronement contained in the booklet, which can be used by families to dedicate themselves and their homes to the Sacred Heart, is based on a version widely promoted in the early 20th century through the work of Father Mateo Crawley-Boevey, SS.CC., who emphasized the role of enthronement in fostering a Christ-centered family life. 16X20 images of the Sacred Heart Icon will be available on-line for \$1.00 each and framed Images for \$20.00 each. Watch supplies online for when these are available and consider ordering samples to

display at your parishes for taking orders prior to receiving the icon at your parish. Councils that promote the Home Enthronement with the Sacred Heart Icon will receive two points when they complete the form 10784.

Silver Rose. Wisconsin will Receive the Silver Rose from Iowa on July 13th and will turn it over to Illinois on August 9th, so I am taking requests for the Silver Rose. The final schedule will be released prior to our State convention as usual.

Priority for hosting the Silver Rose will be given to the Hispanic Councils given that they did not host last year and Our Lady of Guadalupe has special significance for those of Hispanic ancestry. Remember, we have over three hundred councils in Wisconsin. Unless we get the Silver Rose for a longer period of time, only 24 councils will be able to host.

Send your requests to me at DFBednarek@gmail.com with the subject being "Silver Rose Request". In your request please include the name of the parish or parishes in which services will take place.

YOUCAT Bibles. The state's current inventory of YOUCAT Bibles is approximately 140 Bibles spread out between the La Crosse, Madison, and Milwaukee Diocese. I am still accepting orders for Bibles that can be delivered by the state convention. The number of requests for Bibles will determine if we continue to order the YOUCAT bibles or if we switch to something else. Past sales do not indicate a satisfactory turnaround, but if there is demand for them we hope to meet that demand. Please get your orders in now if you are interested.

Vivat Jesus!



ULTRASOUND PROJECTS

St. Gianna Clinic in De Pere, Our Lady of Hope Clinic in Madison and Life's Connection, and Women's Care Center (Farwell Ave.) in Milwaukee. Congratulations to Council(s) #17889, #10714, & #3562 for your leadership on these ultrasound initiatives. Lake Geneva Council

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#1647 is organizing a ultrasound project for New Day Women's Clinic in Delavan – details forthcoming! If your council would like to help, please send your checks to the address listed at the bottom of this page.

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!

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.
Continued on page 16.



**Knights of
Columbus®**

CULTURE OF LIFE CONTINUED



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!



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

