



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Wisconsin



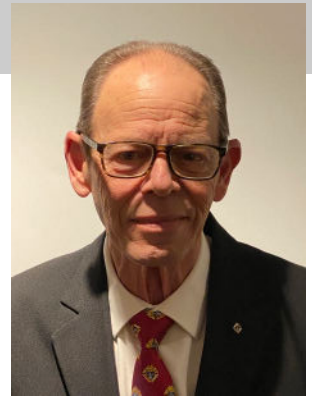
KC STATE NEWSLETTER

"DEFEND US IN BATTLE"

JULY 2024



St. Paul University Catholic Center
UW Catholic Center Council #6568
Madison, WI



BROTHER KNIGHTS ALL of the Wisconsin Jurisdiction, the weekend of June 28th – 30th we held our Summer District Deputy Organizational meeting in Marshfield. At this meeting, we officially installed the District Deputies for the new fraternal year during the Saturday evening dinner.

The meeting itself was to update the Wisconsin District Deputies on what my State's strategic plan is for the first quarter covering the July – September time frame. This plan was previously sent to Supreme and approved and is what we will be measured against as we move forward. ***We need a first quarter fast start.***

As State Deputy one of my primary objectives from our Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly is to grow the order. Right now we have a quota statewide of 1,242 new members. If just 300 of our councils brought in 5 new men this year, we would achieve 1,500 new men and we would be growing the order and ensuring our future good works for another 100+ years.

Growing means in addition to new men we also need to replace the members that have passed away to maintain a net positive membership base. Over 100 members have recently passed away, and we need to insure we are replacing them with men that will carry on the good works that they have done over their years of dedicated service.

We have two issues that can hold us back from achieving our membership 2024-2025 goal:

- (1) Over the last three years, Wisconsin historically has lagged in bringing in new members during the first quarter. That puts unnecessary pressure on all councils to pick up the pace during the rest of the year. Several Councils stop meeting entirely during the summer months. But that

doesn't mean you stop inviting men to join. I don't remember inviting men during a council or officer meeting. We invite men through our everyday interactions with men and families we meet at various functions. We still attend Mass over the summer. We attend ball games, bible study groups, camping, social events, etc. Wear your KC gear and be visible as a member of the Knights. The logo on our polo shirt can stimulate a question from a potential member as to what it means. This is where you need to know how to proceed by sharing with this individual all that the Knights represent and do for families & communities and parishes, and why you joined the Knights. We must continue our recruiting efforts during the summer months.

- (2) 25% or 81 of our councils did not recruit a single member last fraternal year and that creates more of a burden on the remaining 75% to carry the load to ensure our growth. If those 81 councils recruited at least two members last year, that would equal 162 more men and the State Council would have achieved Circle of Honor recognition. This is similar to a council achieving the STAR Council award.

We as a state leadership team are here to help and need to find the reasons for the lack of recruiting and provide whatever assistance is necessary to ensure they are continuing Blessed Father Michael McGivney's mission.

Vivat Jessu!

The Order grows one member at a time and with a personal ask.

Steve Cohen
Territorial Growth Director
PSD from Supreme



Dear Brother Knights, give thanks to God! In this last month of summer, pause to give thanks and take stock of all that you have been given to be thankful for. Most especially, give thanks for the good God himself. Every blessing comes from God the Father of all.

As I write this, images are flashing across my screen of the height of moral perversion currently on display from Paris, France. The modern Olympiad has now revived the most disgusting acts from Greek culture, placing them out in the open to be celebrated in the so-called mainstream. The kingdom of darkness is having its hour there in France, who ancient Popes and Emperors called the "eldest daughter of the Church". Jesus said, "on the day of the coming of the Son of Man, it will be as in the days of Noah." (Matthew 24:37) The world was completely overrun with sin in those days of Noah. We are seeing very powerful images on the world stage of what those final days will look like. It will be sudden and there will be no warning.

God is our salvation. Remember that the devil is a terrorist. He uses the media today to broadcast evil to as many people as possible. There are so many good people who are seduced into accepting this evil which we see broadcast. Some people will give into consent. Others say this is okay, so I will say that it is okay. Other people will give into despair and conclude that there aren't really any good people to be found anymore.

How do you resist evil effectively in times like this? "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." (Romans 12:21) Evil is trying to show us its totality. Satan seeks to encompass everything in evil. All of Satan's evil in full display has not even a drop of power compared to God's fullness. Our resistance to evil is not merely in our own efforts to do good. God himself is the rock of salvation. He is our strength in everything. Evil is not only in the bad and abhorrent things we see but much more in our absence from the life of God. God never leaves us, but we, the sinful,

forget about God so easily. St. Augustine said, "you were within, Lord, but I was without."

Never forget God! Human pride is the totality of our sin in many ways. It is also the reminder that we can turn to God even now. He can quite easily save us when we surrender to Him. Don't forget to give thanks to God, fully! After our blessed Eucharistic Congress, never forget that the Catholic Church has everything that the world needs in that little host. In and through it all, Eucharist still means "Thanksgiving". It is our ultimate thanks to God to receive the perfect sacrifice of Jesus and eat his Risen Flesh and Blood. Most Humble King!

Vivat Jesus!



Knights of Columbus®



MY BROTHER KNIGHTS, I hope you are enjoying a great Wisconsin Summer. I'm pleased to announce that the new State Directory has been progressing nicely and should have been sent to the printer before this is published. Thank to Joe Uchtyl and everyone that contributed. The Directories will be distributed at the upcoming Diocesan Tour in September.

Look ahead and stay focused. Our Worthy State Deputy has asked for a **fast start**, which includes:

- ▷ **Membership:** This is a win-win. If your Council can reach it's goal, you will see a reduction in your per capita. The savings on your per cap means more money for Charity.
- ▷ **Programs:** There are so many exciting opportunities this time of year. Don't wait for back-to-school or harvest or cooler weather. March in parades, host picnics, clean-up cemeteries. Call your Pastor and get your Faith in Action now. Programs means witness and witness means more guys want to be a Knight.
- ▷ **Basics:** We know the basics. Submit your August semi-annual audit, submit your 185, your 365, plan out your Fraternal Benefit Events. If we can focus on Membership, Programs and put the basics in our FAST START, then there is no scrambling to hit goals at the end of the year.

Lastly, try something new. This is a brand-new Fraternal Year and time to **start fast** and to start new. Do one new program, something your Council hasn't done before or done in a while. Make sure you plan it well, set goals, and turn it into a recruitment event.

Vivat Jesus!



THE BLESSED MICHAEL J. MCGIVNEY GUILD

Are you a member?

The Blessed Michael J. McGivney Guild serves as a source for information about the life, works and spirituality of Father McGivney. The Guild distributes informational materials about him, receives reports of favors granted through his intercession and oversees the distribution of relics. Guild members receive regular updates on the progress of Blessed Michael J. McGivney's cause for canonization and are invited to participate in promoting devotion to this Servant of God.

Wisconsin has only 1,264 out of 179,000 plus members registered in the Guild. Members of the Knights of Columbus are not automatically Guild members and must elect to join the Guild. The Blessed Michael J. McGivney Guild Newsletter is published quarterly and is sent free to Guild members.

Scan the QR Code above to register today! **It's FREE!**





A Saint in the Making

INSTEAD OF FOCUSING on a few membership ideas and items this month, I wanted to bring attention to the important days that occur during August every year.

First, our Supreme Convention typically occurs during the first week of the month of August throughout the US and this year, in Canada. It is a gathering of Knights across the World to discuss the importance business of our Order and ways to improve for the future. The daily Mass that is open to attend is often attended by hundreds of Priests throughout the World. Hopefully in the future, Wisconsin can once again host this important annual event! It is at this Convention that changes are enacted for our Order as well, a few years ago—so we will know more following this year's Convention as to any further improvements for our membership and offering membership to others.

Also in August, we celebrate the Feast Day of our Founder, Blessed Michael J. McGivney.

How rare it is for an organization to be founded by someone on their path to Sainthood—but are others outside of our Order aware of this? Do we share this story of our saintly founder to our Priests and Deacons—to our Parish Staff and potential new members? Visit this [link](#) for more information on our founder.

As Catholics, it's important that we study and understand the works and deeds of the Saints that have come before us. These Saints can help answer the prayers that we offer up, as well as help guide us in our ways. What an honor it is for our councils to be formed from a founder that has such an impact on others' daily lives and can help us answer our prayers.

Now, the vision of our Founder was to have 'active' and 'vibrant' Knights of Columbus councils in every Parish. His vision was one of

helping protect and serve Catholic families. How can we better share this story to others? How can we ensure that we offer every Catholic man this opportunity to be apart of this important order, that makes a daily impact on others' lives?

As we close the month of July, we are focused on helping each and every one of our 300 plus councils in our State grow! We need your help as well to do this—we need our councils to schedule and coordinate opportunities to invite new members, such as various programs that you do in your parish community or drives that you conduct before and after Mass. We have resources in every Diocese that are willing to assist your council, and we have a **mission** to do this for you all. In doing so, we will fulfill the **vision** of our founder, Blessed Michale J. McGivney.

Vivat Jesus!



SUPREME PUBLIC RELATIONS & PUBLICITY GUIDE: POLITICS

The following extract from the Supreme Public Relations and Publicity Guide

AS WE MOVE closer to the November elections, let us remember when we identify ourselves as Knights, it is important to remember that while you are free to express your opinion on issues of a political or cultural nature, you may not identify yourself as a member of the Knights of Columbus or your local council. When the Order speaks publicly about certain matters, including legislation and judicial decisions, it does so through the Communications Department at the Supreme Council. This ensures consistency and discipline in messaging. For this reason, members who wish to be heard on matters of political or cultural significance are instructed to do so as individual citizens and not as representatives of their council or the Order as a whole. Please contact the [Communications Department](#) if you have any questions.

POLITICS + SOCIAL MEDIA: KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS RULES

As Catholics and members of the Knights of Columbus, we are each called to faithful citizenship—to live out our Catholic faith in our public and private lives. However, how to do this, especially when representing ourselves as Knights on social media, is not always clear.

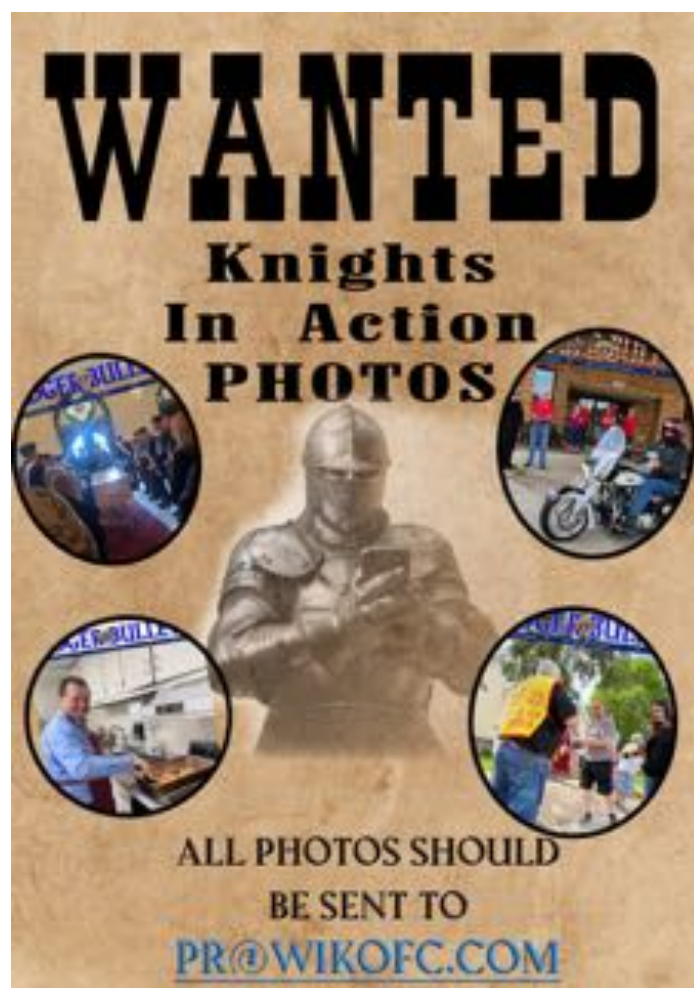
Here are some guidelines:

- ▷ Talk about issues, not candidates. Your council's social media platforms should never endorse one specific candidate or party. Instead, share information about the pro-life movement, religious freedom, and other issues Catholics care about when they go to the polls.
- ▷ Your council can also encourage your community to register to vote with the Knights of Columbus Get Out the Vote initiative.
- ▷ If you are running for office, separate your candidacy from being a Knight. You cannot campaign as a member of the Knights of Columbus on social media or offline. The Officer's Desk Reference has a detailed guide on conducting yourself as a Knight when running for political office.

- ▷ Be positive and polite online (and in person!). A gracious and charitable attitude when using social media goes a long way.

Rather than attacking a candidate or political party, share resources to guide others in their faithful citizenship. Refrain from engaging with people who leave inflammatory or impolite comments on your council's social media platforms.

Vivat Jesus!





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KNOW OF A family with a sudden life crisis? First, bring it to your local council for consideration, then print off a copy of the “State Charity Grant Application” from the state website, use that form to interview the family to hear their story. Based on the reports I have heard, no matter how large the payout of the grant to the family, you will receive the greatest satisfaction.

The committee is already preparing for next year’s raffle. The raffle program has helped many families over the years and by all measures has been a great success. The raffle program basic structure has not changed much since it’s inception, with the mine set of why mess with a good thing. Our brothers before us established a great system. Are we stuck in a rut? Should we be considering other ways of bettering the program? We would like to hear your thoughts. Ideas have come forth, such as should we raise the cost of a ticket, change the prize structure (bigger prize, or more prize winners), or make it a sweepstakes. Next year’s raffle will follow previous years format and prize structure, but make your voices heard and contact your committee members if you have any concerns:

From the Superior Diocese – Dennis & Doris Berends

From the La Crosse Diocese – Michael Haight

From the Green Bay Diocese – Jeff Janssen

From the Madison Diocese – Robert & Colleen Pizur

From the Milwaukee Diocese – Jim & Beth Ten Pas



ULTRASOUND PROJECTS

St. Gianna Clinic in De Pere and the other is in Madison at Our Lady of Hope Clinic. Congratulations to Council(s) #17889 & #7732 for your leadership on these ultrasound initiatives. If your council would like to help, send your checks to:

St. Maria Goretti Council #17889

GK Justin Knapp
255 Park St
Oregon, WI 53575
(262) 994-0319
jwknapp98@gmail.com

St. Gianna Clinic

GK Jim Hooyman
W4210 Moore Rd
Hilbert, WI 54129
(920) 203-9166
jimhooyman@gmail.com

NOTE: You may put "Ultrasound" in the memo of this check.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Have you helped with a Special Olympics of Wisconsin (SOWI) event? Be sure to report your hours to your GK so Wisconsin can get credit (and the funds from Supreme Council) – [go here](#) to submit your Form #10784!

The Wisconsin Knights of Columbus have agreed to have boots on the ground for all Special Olympics of Wisconsin (SOWI) statewide events. If they need us to flip pancakes, that's what we will do!

If they want us to man a table for sign-ups, that's what we will do! We are there to **help** with manpower! 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 – Fall Games! Wisconsin Dells!

Here is the ask from Special Olympics of Wisconsin:

KOC Fall Games Color Presentation at Opening Ceremonies

- ▷ Date: Friday, September 6, 2024
- ▷ Time: 7:00pm - 8:00pm
- ▷ Location: Chula Vista Resort, Wisconsin Dells, WI
- ▷ 4th Degree Knights needed: 5-6

KOC Fall Games Bocce Volunteers

- ▷ Date: Saturday, September 7, 2024
- ▷ Time: 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

KOC Fall Games Pancake Breakfast

- ▷ Date: Sunday, September 8, 2024
- ▷ Time: 7:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.
- ▷ Approx. # serving: 630 (taken from 2023 #'s)

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 (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!

SPECIAL REQUEST

Pro-Life Wisconsin is housing a young family at a hotel in Appleton who recently delivered their baby. They were displaced to Wisconsin due to the tornadoes in Tennessee. The housing that they had up here fell apart and here we are. All of the maternity homes are full up with no room available for them. We are looking for a long term solution by getting them into a apartment, single family home, or trailer. Their \$3,000 grant with Pro-Life Wisconsin is running out soon. If you are a landlord and willing to look past their credit history, Pro-Life Wisconsin is fully prepared to pay their first months and security deposit. The father of the child is working, but they have no car, so the ideal situation would be something in a city with public transportation. Contact me, Dan Miller, at Pro-Life Wisconsin.

Vivat Jesus!



BROTHERS, AS WE begin the 2024-25 Fraternal Year, we would like to see all Councils get off to a fast start in July and August with their Faith in Action and Youth programming. It's easy to do so and get a jump start on the Community portion of your next SP-7 in the process. Here's how you do that:

1) Plan now for where, when you'll be doing your Coats for Kids Drive and make arrangements with that church, school, shelter, organization, etc. accordingly. Get your funding in order. Determine where you'll get your coats from, about how many you'll need including signs. Do likewise for any other items you may be handing out as well (scarves, mittens/gloves, hats, snowpants, boots, etc.). Hold needed fundraisers for the capital you'll need to do this.

2) Likewise, summer's a great time to do a brat fry, pancake breakfast, bowl-a-thon or golf outing, ice cream social, etc. to raise money for Global Wheelchairs, a Habitat for Humanity project or a local Council in need of money as a result of recent storms or floods.

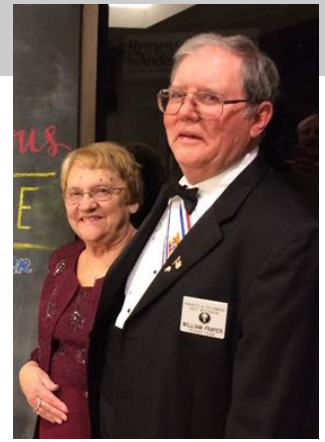
It's only \$150 per wheelchair so a lot can be done there. Get the brothers together to work a day or a week at a nearby Habitat project or their Re-Store facility. Contact your State Disaster Prep Chair Paul

Shepherd, the grand Knight of Councils where recent disasters took place or State Office to see where your donations are needed. You can also check to see that plans and supplies for disaster preparations and reaction in your parish or community are in order.

3) Check with your pastor or parish leadership team if you haven't already done so at your annual or semi-annual Evaluation and Planning Meeting with them, to see what projects around the parish, school need doing that you can lead or assist with. Likewise, do so with your community leadership or other civic organizations. This can go along way toward fulfilling your Helping Hands program needs.

4) During these summer months, it's not at all too early to run your Punt, Pass, Kick and/or Soccer Challenge contests rather than waiting until September. Diocesan Contests will again be held in mid-October and the State Finals, while still TBA, will likely be held in De Pere on either Nov. 2 or 9.

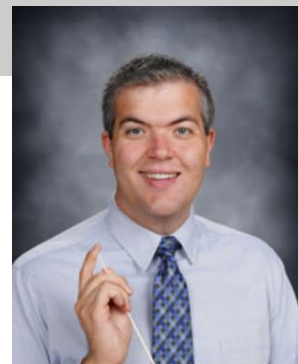
The theme for this year's Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest has been announced by Supreme. It is "What are the 2 most important virtues for an elected leader to possess and why? How can you determine if the leader has those virtues?". Order your materials now from Supplies



Online for the contest and arrange to get them and needed information to your schools, religious education and homeschool programs by Labor Day or before. The contest runs October 1 to November 30 with essays due to Councils no later than December 15. Winners are due to Diocesan Program Coordinators by December 31.

If you can get these things accomplished as outlined above, you'll be off to a great start for the new Fraternal Year and well on your way to doing a great job for your Community Faith in Action and Youth programs for 2024-25. As always, new programs and ideas are always welcome. Feel free to contact me or your Diocesan Program Coordinator anytime with questions, suggestions, requests for assistance, etc. Have a great July!

Vivat Jesus!



NEWSLETTER SURVEY

WORTHY BROTHER KNIGHTS, it has been an honor to create and produce our monthly state newsletter for your councils. My hope is that you are finding the same joy reading it that I do editing it. However, even good things can be made better, and I always welcome your feedback regarding this publication. I can be easily reached by the email listed in the side note on this page.

I would like to extend my sincerest thanks to Brother Jack Wrbanich for helping me put together a Google Form that contains the survey. It would be very appreciated if you could take a couple minutes to complete it. All you need to do is scan the QR Code with your phone or click on this [link](#). I will take each response seriously so that I may continue to provide high-quality newsletters for the Wisconsin Knights of Columbus councils.

Furthermore, I'd like to remind you all that I am featuring your councils on the cover of each newsletter. So far, I have not received any requests, and have had to randomly search our directory for locations to feature. It only takes a few extra minutes, but it is difficult to find high quality images. That's where your help comes in! If you would like to feature your council on the newsletter cover, please see the side note.

Brothers, thank you for all you do to continue growing this wonderful, fraternal organization. It is a privilege to be work alongside you all!

Vivat Jesus!



A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Each month in our 2024 newsletter for will feature one of our council's churches throughout Wisconsin. If you would like your council's church featured in future issues of the newsletter, please send me your parish's name, city, council #, and a high-quality image. Submissions may be sent to jjhoppermusic@gmail.com.

On the cover...

St. Paul University Catholic Center
UW Catholic Center Council #6568
Madison, WI



WISCONSIN

HOW TO WRITE ARTICLES

Newsworthy • 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.
- ▷ Please name your filenames with your name, title, and newsletter month (e.g. Hopper, Joshua_Editor_Jan24).
- ▷ Any questions may be submitted to Joshua Hopper, Editor, 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.



**Knights of
Columbus®**

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

