

# BADGER BULLETIN

MAY 2025





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# Faith, Music, & Potatoes

Joshua Hopper

**AT FIRST GLANCE**, the title seems rather silly. How can three distinct nouns even be remotely related? Simple. It comes down to perspective. In this case, the connection is not semantic. Rather, it is in my personal struggles that herein lies the obscure connection.

A recently homily I heard was about our moments of darkness and how we must make a concerted effort to persevere and grow closer to God. I am a cradle Catholic and have been fortunate to receive a Catholic education all the way through my undergraduate studies. In spite of this, I still struggle to develop a loving relationship with God. I struggle to fight through those moments of darkness, and I opt for an easier solution, such as turning to my favorite Lego games for entertainment.

In my professional career, I am a 6-12 Band Director. From the time I was in 7<sup>th</sup> Grade, I felt an intimate calling to share my love of music with others despite my congenital hearing loss. My disability is further exacerbated by the inherent obstacles in teaching and the far-reaching impacts of our post-COVID world. However, I know that perseverance in the face of difficulty is where true growth

occurs. I continue to learn from my mistakes and my inner doubts and I learn from reading and talking to successful band directors. Challenges are the reason I grow.

My third struggle parallel concerns my diet. I have struggled with my weight my whole life. As I see it, I have two options: blame my genetics—a predisposition to high blood pressure, high cholesterol, and diabetes—or I can take action.

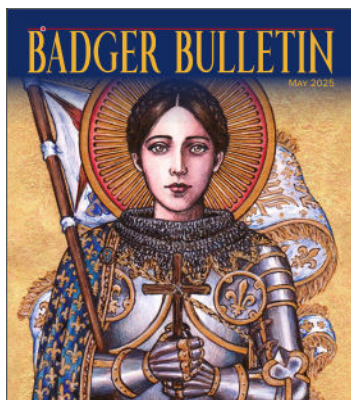
I came to the conclusion that I was improperly using food for pleasure and not for nourishment. Armed with research and a dash of desperation, I decided to follow a potato-centric diet for Lent, giving up all other food (except for a seasonings and a few fruits for snacks). In this struggle, I am learning how to, in the words of Andrew “Sput Fit” Taylor, “make my food boring and my life interesting.”

Coincidentally, my resolve to push through these three struggles—to grow as a teacher, grow closer to God, and reclaim my health—all came about in Lent, which is a perfect time to find your way through your darkneses. It only goes to show that we are capable of anything we set our minds to, especially if we invite God into the process. *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. JOAN OF ARC

On May 30, we celebrate the feast of one of most popular saints. From an early age, Joan heard the voices of St. Margaret, St. Michael, and St. Catherine telling her to help drive the English from French territory. Though she admitted to a fellow soldier that she would have rather stayed back at home, she knew she had to do what the Lord willed her to do. Under her divine guidance, she was successfully able to do the will of God. However, she was tried for heresy and cross-dressing offenses, which lead to her execution by burning at the stake in 1431. She was 19 years old at the time of her death. She is the patron saint of soldiers and France.



#### OUR ANNUAL STATE CONVENTION

will be held on May 16th – 18th at the KI Center in Green Bay. Part of being an active member is attending this important event. For months, our state team and host councils have been working hard in preparation for this convention, and its

success depends on your attendance. Therefore, I want to kindly urge you to consider registering, which can easily be done on our state website.

This opportunity allows your council delegates to have a voice in representing your membership by voting on new resolutions and electing the State Officers for the next fraternal year. In addition, I also urge you to consider Brother Knights from your diocese that would interested and able to attend the Supreme Convention in August in Washington DC.

#### INTAKE GOALS

In my March article, I mentioned that March is historically our strongest month for intake. We succeeded in bringing in 121 brothers in March, above our 2024 March average of 118 members. Thank you to all that made all this possible.

Additionally, as of April 14, we have welcomed a total of 888 men to our order, which is accounts for 74% of our state council's growth goal of 1206. With only three months remaining in this fraternal year, I need each member to help bring at least 318 more men to meet our goal. This can be as easy as walking up to an eligible and asking them to join. Many people we surveyed said they would consider joining our order but have never been formally asked. Now is the time to ask. If every council could step up and bring in just one new member, we will easily reach our 318 goal.

I am looking forward to meeting you at the convention to personally thank you for your efforts. Thank you brothers for all you do! *Vivat Jesus!*





**AS I WRITE TO YOU**, we are looking forward to another excellent KC convention at the KI Center in Green Bay. Bishop Ricken and the Green Bay Diocese always welcome us with warm hospitality. Have you booked your spot at the convention this year?

Here in the month of May, we celebrate the month of Mary, the Blessed Virgin Mother of God. I am returning to Wisconsin just in time for convention after leading a pilgrimage to Knock in Ireland, and Medjugorje in Herzegovina. Both of these cities are places where Mary appeared to certain visionaries. On the evening of August 21, 1879, Mary appeared on the gable wall of the parish Church in Knock, along with St. Joseph, St. John the Beloved, and an image of the Lamb of God. There was no sound with the apparition, but it was witnessed by many parishioners until the apparition ended later in the night. The fruits of the apparition

were that many Irish were built up and consoled in their faith after so many years of hardship from the famine and oppression in that country. Incidentally, Fr. McGivney was still a young priest in New Haven, CT at the time of this apparition. Less than three years later, he would found the Knights of Columbus.

Medjugorje is a more recent example of Marian apparitions in the Church. On June 24, 1981, Mary appeared to five different teenagers in that city, drawing them all together to what is now called Apparition Hill. Mary continued appearing to each of them for many years subsequently. At least some of the visionaries continue to see Mary and speak with her even to this day. Because of the ongoing nature of these apparitions, the Church is not yet able to conclude an investigation to declare that these apparitions are "worthy of belief". In spite of this, the Church has been able to see for many years the great benefit to so many pilgrims who travel there. Medjugorje has produced many conversions and vocations. Visitors describe a prevailing spirit of peace over the entire city. In fact, Mary has asked to be known as "Queen of Peace" in Medjugorje. In recent years, the Vatican, under the guidance of Pope Francis, has stated that pilgrimages can officially be approved by the Catholic Church to Medjugorje.

On my pilgrimage, I will remember the Knights of Columbus of the state of Wisconsin in prayer. I pray that the KofC will be able to invest more in Medjugorje. Eastern Europe still needs peace to reign. I look forward to sharing the fruits of the pilgrimage with everyone at our annual convention in Green Bay.

*Vivat Jesus!*



# Elections of New Council Officers

**AS WE APPROACH OUR ANNUAL** elections, it is important to reflect on the vital role leadership plays within our Knights of Columbus councils. A strong leadership team is essential for achieving our goals and fostering a sense of community, charity, and fraternity. With elections for council officer positions imminent, it is essential to communicate the process clearly and encourage active participation among our members.

## The Importance of Council Leadership

Each officer position is critical in guiding the council's direction. The key roles available for election include:

- **Grand Knight:** The chief executive officer of the council who sets goals and presides over meetings.
- **Deputy Grand Knight:** Assists the Grand Knight and may take on program director responsibilities.
- **Chancellor:** Focuses on membership growth, playing an essential role in recruitment and retention.
- **Treasurer:** Manages the council's finances, ensuring transparency and fiscal health.
- **Advocate:** Serves as the council's parliamentarian, knowledgeable in procedures and legal resources.
- **Recorder:** Documents meetings to promote accountability and clarity.
- **Warden:** Safeguards the council's property and oversees transactions.
- **Inside/Outside Guards:** Ensure smooth operations during meetings and assist with membership verification.

## Election Process

To elect capable and dedicated officers, familiarize yourself with these essential steps to communicate with your respective council over the next two months.

- **Nominations and Campaigning:** Encourage members to nominate candidates for each position

over the next month. This period should allow potential candidates to express their visions for the council.

- **Election Schedule:** Set a specific date for the elections, ideally at the end of the two-month timeframe. Notify all members to maximize participation.
- **Voting Procedure:** Ensure a fair voting process on election day. Depending on your council's size, use either a secret ballot or a show of hands, and appoint a committee to oversee the process for transparency.
- **Limitations and Qualifications:** Remind members of any qualifications for each position. For example, candidates for Grand Knight should have held another council office.
- **Submission of Form 185:** After elections, submit Form 185 to the Supreme Council to officially report the newly elected officers and ensure proper record-keeping for a smooth transition.

## Encouraging Participation

As Knights of Columbus, we know that unity and participation are our strengths. Make the upcoming elections a primary topic in meetings to generate interest. Encourage members to consider the commitment these roles require and remind them that serving in leadership is both a privilege and a duty to support our fraternity's growth.

In conclusion, as we prepare for this significant time in our council's calendar, let us honor the legacy of our organization by electing dedicated officers who are committed to serving our members and the communities we support. Let's move forward with enthusiasm and determination as we approach the upcoming elections!

*Vivat Jesus!*

**SINCE JULY 1ST, WE'VE**

welcomed a staggering **533 new E-members**, a 35% leap beyond *all* previous Fraternal Years combined! And with a full 2.5 months still on the horizon, the momentum is undeniable.

The impact is already being felt at the local level, with **416 E-members transitioning into councils this year**. In fact, roughly **half of all new council members** are now joining through the power of online membership.

While over **30% of Wisconsin councils** are already leveraging this modern approach, imagine the possibilities if even more embraced the digital path to growth. A huge thank you to the pioneering councils who are leading the charge and demonstrating the incredible potential of E-membership!"

A powerful resource to help streamline the effectiveness of our E-membership efforts is to utilize our calling cards. These calling cards contain a direct QR code link for online joining. Your dedicated Diocesan Membership Directors and District Deputies are your go-to contacts for ordering these cards. They're always ready and willing to equip you with these cards to boost your recruitment efforts.

**REMINDER**

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

Supreme presented a Webinar in December on transferring online members to council membership. If you need a refresher, you can watch it [here](#). 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

**PROSPECT TAB**

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.

**Clicking on this blue box will take you to the Prospect Tab 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. Scan the QR Code for Candidate tab training.

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

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!*



# The Homestretch

**WE'RE IN THE HOME STRETCH** of our Fraternal Year, and Wisconsin Knights are making impressive strides in membership! To truly reach our potential—a near 1,200 new members, the highest in almost ten years and a 20% increase—we need a final push.

I would like to encourage each council to host at least one exemplification in May or June. Imagine the collective impact! Together, this could easily bring in over 300 new brothers! This is also a prime opportunity to help our 1<sup>st</sup> Degree Knights advance, strengthening your council from within and potentially identifying those ready to take on leadership roles. Let's work together to make these final months our most impactful yet!

To invite and attract new members—I would encourage every council to review the following two opportunities and see if you can identify a handful of potential new members to reach out to:

- > **OCIA Candidates** that were just brought into the Church this past Easter
- > **High School** Seniors or any student older than age 17.5 years old

Each of our councils represent a parish that has a Religious Education program and a local high school. Asking council members if their sons, grandsons, nephews, neighbors, etc. would now be of age and able to join the Knights can help us identify a number of individuals to invite into the Order. An easy way to do so would be to utilize the E-Membership process.

With over 500 members joining online year to date, and many of these men transferring into local councils, our councils have used the online process at a record pace this year. Continue to utilize this important feature these last two months to help grow your councils!

As always, please let us know what we can do to help. We are here to serve you!

*Vivat Jesus!*





**WE ARE NOW IN A PERIOD** of where we continue to celebrate the Lord's resurrection in a period called Eastertide. Not only that, but the month May is dedicated to Mary, the Mother of God. I would like to encourage you to consider a consecration to Mary to help you grow deeper in holiness and your relationship with Jesus.

Likewise, June is the month of Jesus and it calls us to focus more on Him, especially during this Eucharistic Revival. Your council has a wonderful opportunity to lead by sponsoring a Eucharistic Procession in your parish or town, or perhaps organizing a Holy Hour or the Chaplet of Divine Mercy.

Finally, as June winds down, please ensure your council completes the SP-7 Columbian Award form. Achieving four credits in each program area, including Faith, should be a fundamental goal. There are numerous straightforward yet meaningful ways to demonstrate our faith in action.

### **SACRED HEART OF JESUS ICON**

As of this writing, the Icon should have reached 45 councils and well over 45 parishes in Wisconsin. Some common feedback that I have received from councils is a lack of prayer cards. Therefore, I'm asking all councils to order prayer cards before you get the Icon. The prayer cards are **#11520 Sacred Heart Prayer Card** and **#613 Sacred Heart Litany Prayer Card**. You can order them for free (but you pay for shipping). I advise combining orders with other items your council needs from Supreme, to keep shipping charges nominal.

The Home Enthronement of the Sacred Heart is now going forward with all the supplies available from Supreme. The following items can be ordered and are now in stock at Supreme: **#11769 Enthronement Booklet**, **#11774 Enthronement Prayer Cards**, **#11762 Enthronement Certificates**, **#4361 Image of the Sacred Heart 11X14 unframed**, **#PT-8 Framed Image of the Sacred Heart 11X14**, and **#11772 Sacred Heart Children's Activity Book**.

As the Fraternal Year Comes to an end I need to collect the logbooks that are accompanying the Icon. I will have replacements for them to be given to the representatives of **Councils 2210, 5456, 596, 1789, and 6560**, or their District Deputy with instructions on

returning the ones with the Icon to me. I have to get a report from these log books to Supreme by the end of July. On a final note of the Icon program the State received an updated schedule which should be posted on the web site. The biggest difference with the update had some spelling corrections and changes after November 2025. Remember If you have questions do not hesitate to call or email me on the Icon program.

### **SACRAMENTAL GIFTS**

As I mentioned earlier there would be an addition to the Sacramental Gifts Program. Despite previous praise regarding our purchase of YouCat bibles for confirmation-aged students, there has been a steady decline in sales over the last three years. Sales declined by roughly 200 Bibles each year. This year I doubt we will hit 800 sales and continued making inquiries to councils that stopped buying them, citing incompleteness as the main factor. This year at the convention we will have two Bibles available if your council is interested in purchasing them. I suggest you get a sample to consider with your Parish. Both bibles will still be available at the same price of \$12.50 each, which is less than half their normal cost. We also received a shipment of the YouCat Bibles in early April so if you need them please get your orders to me. They can be paid for either upon delivery or through the State Web site. If I get the order by convention we will have your bibles at Convention.

### **SILVER ROSE**

The first draft of the Silver Rose Schedule has been delivered to the 27 host councils. As usual, changes will be made to the best of our abilities. I ask that you consider the fact that out of over 300 councils, less than 10% of those councils can host the Silver Rose in any one year. While it is true that some councils have gotten it two years in a row, it is merely given their geographical location. Through conversations with the Illinois coordinator, we decided that going to Kenosha and Waukegan this year would be best. However, Kenosha surprised me by not requesting the Icon this year. Therefore, I'm looking yet for a council near lake Michigan to host Silver Rose on August 9th. Please reach out to me if interested.

*Vivat Jesus!*



**EVERYONE IS STARTING TO GET** excited about the upcoming Memorial Day holiday, making it the unofficial start of summer. As we get ready for this exciting time, it is important to remind ourselves of two things: (1) our programs continue throughout the summer, and (2) all programs are family events.

I know every council has worked hard in their programs, which generate a lot of attention for our order. Programs also provide a great opportunity to recruit new members and invite them to a council meeting. My goal for your council is to help you receive the Columbian award. If you need help, contact one of your program coordinators. All you have to do is fill out the form 10784 and send it to Supreme, State, and your District Deputy. **Let's finish the year strong!**

## STATE CONVENTION

I will end my article with a note about the upcoming convention in Green Bay. The council officers who we elect will set the stage our upcoming fraternal, guiding you through the fraternal year with programs and membership advice. Your vote at the State Convention is vitally important. Thank you for your attention to this matter. *Vivat Jesus!*





### ASAP GRANTS

Hopefully the month of April 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! 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.

### CULTURE OF LIFE GRANT FUND

Do you have a favorite pregnancy center or pro-life group that could use some extra money? The Wisconsin State Council is accepting applications up until **May 15, 2025**. Go to the State website for a grant form or [email me](#) to get you a copy.

### MARCH FOR LIFE – WISCONSIN

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!](#)

### ULTRASOUND PROJECTS

Congratulations to council #10714, #17889, #4586 for your leadership on these ultrasound initiatives. If your council would like to help, please send your checks to:

#### Fr. Claud Allouez #10714

Peter Tilleman  
3155 E. River Dr.  
Green Bay, WI 54301  
920-737-0630 (c)  
[ptilleman@gmail.com](mailto:ptilleman@gmail.com)

#### St. Maria Goretti Council #17889

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

#### St. Joseph Council #4586

GK Charles Risler  
1102 Timothy Ave.  
Madison, WI 53716  
608-574-53716  
[risler5@yahoo.com](mailto:risler5@yahoo.com)

### 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. Here are the upcoming events! Please get the word out to your members to go volunteer!

#### SUMMER GAMES

Thursday, June 5: Perkins Stadium @ UW-Whitewater, 5 p.m. start time. Outdoors (rain plan is inside Williams Arena on campus)

#### FALL GAMES

Friday, September 5 – Chula Vista Resort Wisconsin Dells, 7 p.m. start time. Indoors.  
Includes Saturday morning Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast