

# BADGER BULLETIN

JULY 2025





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# Behold, Your Mother

Joshua Hopper

**THE GOSPEL OF JOHN TELLS US** that Jesus said to his mother, Mary, “Woman, behold your son” (John 19:26). He said to John, “Behold, your mother” (John 19:27). Despite his pain on the cross, Jesus was concerned for his mother’s well-being and entrusted her care to the apostle John (it is believed that Joseph passed away before the crucifixion of Jesus).

It is now our turn to care for and honor our heavenly mother and our earthly mothers. The motto of our new fraternal year is “Mary, Our Mother.” I believe we have a duty to consecrate our lives to the Mother of God, through novenas, rosaries, and devotions. Let her help guide us to become better men, husbands, and fathers. Ask her for her motherly embrace to help us through any of life’s difficulties. Much like her son, Mary will never abandon us.

I was fortunate to find out that the feasts of Sts. Joachim and Anne fell in July, serendipitously matching the beginning of our new fraternal year. Some of us may forget to see the saints as coming from a family. It slips our minds that St. Augustine’s mom, St. Monica, prayed for his conversion constantly or that Mary

also had parents who raised her when she was young. Although Mary was born without sin, her parents helped set the stage for her life by instilling in her a love of God and of her faith. When God called Mary, she answered! She showed immense trust and bravery in the will of God and never strayed, even when it meant her son would ultimately pay that final price on the cross.

Whether we are parents or not, we can always find something in the lives of Mary and her parents that would help us be better Knights of Columbus, better husbands, fathers, uncles, cousins, brothers, and friends. The biggest example is to listen to God’s call and say yes to Him *right away* (remember what happened to Jonah). Our lives are but a service to Him, to do His will.

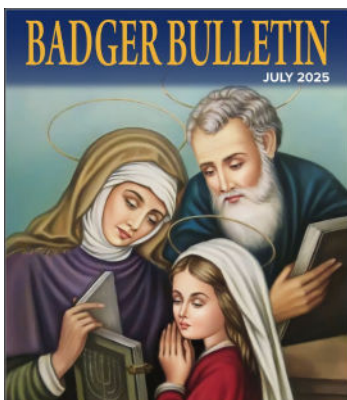
*Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb: Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.*

*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: STS. JOACHIM & ANNE

On July 26, we celebrate the feast day of Saints Joachim and Anne, the parents of Mary, the Mother of God. As we begin this new fraternal year in our council, we should remind ourselves of God’s promises and that all things are possible through Him. Though it can’t be regarded as factual, a legend told in a document called Gospel of James says Joachim and Anne also received a vision from an angel, saying that they would bear a child after years of childlessness. According to Catholic Online, “For those who wonder what we can learn from people we know nothing about and how we can honor them, [remember that] it was their teaching that led [Mary] to respond to God’s request with faith, ‘Let it done to me as you will.’”



**HAPPY FRATERNAL NEW YEAR TO ALL!** Our 2024-2025 Fraternal Year is now history. Congratulations to all of you for your efforts that gave Wisconsin another successful year. 1,087 new members were added to the Wisconsin jurisdiction!

At the recent Mid-Year Summer District Deputy organizational meeting in Marshfield, we recognized and thanked the many District Deputies that were retiring at the end of June for their service to the order and recognized the men that were recently inducted as new District Deputies. Due to time limitations at the recent DD Org. Mtg, I will officially exemplify them with their pledge of office during the upcoming Diocesan meetings in September. But until that time, they are considered officially installed and recognized as District Deputies.

**A SPECIAL NOTICE:** I still need more 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. If you personally have or know of another brother knight that exhibits dedication & leadership abilities and believes in the mission of the Knights of Columbus and wants to be part of our team to help our councils grow & adapt to the changes in how we operate. Please reach out to me or the State Officer that represents your diocese. 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.

During this past year, we have been evaluating the many areas that are required to run an effective & cost efficient state operation that supports the needs of our communities, churches, priest and our 34,000 plus members on a timely basis and also determine if we are adapting to changes in technologies that move us from labor intensive paper & pen procedure and communications to more efficient & less time consuming electronic means of reporting at all levels.

One area that I am pleased to announce that will affect both the state operations & timely check processing turnaround to councils is an upgrade in our QuickBooks financial software system that will expedite the turnaround time of processing check reimbursements and grant payments from individually preparing the thousands of checks throughout the year to a batch processing system. This will greatly free up the weekly hours required by our State Treasurer and Administrative Manager.

To also support this change, we have activated the previously approved and budgeted position in our bylaws by our membership for a Part-time Administrative Assistant reporting to the state office Administrative Manager Rick Raulin.

Yvonne Marie DeYoung will start on July 7th. 2025 and brings with her extensive QuickBooks background experience and will be focusing initially on the monthly balancing our many checking accounts and verifying credit card expenses to receipt, and the proper posting of these transactions into our QuickBooks program categories for proper and timely financial reports to the state officer, financial and investment committees and timely state tax reporting purposes.

Thank you for all you have done this past fraternal year! The new year will be even more positive and enjoyable than last year. Our immediate objective is to fill our remaining open District Deputy positions in the first quarter, and I need your help in seeking out those men for consideration for an opportunity of a lifetime!

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

*Vivat Jesus!*



**AS OF JUNE 28**, we have assigned a total of 635 new E-members. This is 55% more than all prior Fraternal Years. So far councils have transferred 510 e-members into councils this Fraternal Year. Roughly 50% of council intake this year has been through E-members. Thank you to all the councils that are utilizing e-membership to grow their membership.

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

### 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.**



**HAPPY NEW YEAR!** It is that time of year again when we update the State Directory. Please know your assistance is essential to ensure accurate and effective communication within the Knights of Columbus State Council. The leadership of all councils and assemblies, districts and areas are asked to promptly respond to the recently received email request to report changes to officer names, addresses, phone numbers, and email contacts. Updates are made online. Please follow the directions in your email. It is important that the information be verified before submission to avoid errors. Accurate directory information helps facilitate timely communication from Supreme and State Councils, ensures correct delivery of important materials, and supports coordination for events, programs, and reporting. Keeping accurate records enhances organizational efficiency and strengthens fraternal unity. The directory is only as good as the information you provide. If you need assistance, please email Joe Uchytel, Rick Raulin, or me. Thanks in advance for your help in this matter. *Vivat Jesus!*

STATE ADVOCATE—THE IMPORTANCE OF FORM 365: PROTECTING OUR COMMUNITY & FRATERNAL ORDER  
DR. DAVID KREUTZ



**AS WE CONTINUE OUR MISSION TO** serve our communities and uphold the values of the Knights of Columbus, I want to take a moment to emphasize the critical importance of completing Form 365. This form is not merely a bureaucratic requirement; it serves as a vital tool in ensuring the safety and well-being of our most vulnerable members and the

integrity of our fraternal order.

### WHAT IS FORM 365?

Form 365—a requirement for all councils—helps us outline the officers who will lead our councils throughout the year. It is imperative that sections for the Program, Family, and Community Directors are filled out in detail. This information is not just for administrative purposes; it helps us ensure that our leadership is equipped and prepared to engage with our community effectively and safely.

### WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

➤ **Safe Environment Training:** Completing Form 365 correctly is pivotal in qualifying for Praesidium's Safe Environment Training. This training equips our leaders and volunteers with the knowledge and skills necessary to safeguard our programs and initiatives. A trained leadership can effectively recognize potential risks and take proactive measures to mitigate them, ensuring that

our gatherings and activities are safe for everyone involved.

- **Background Checks:** The form also plays a crucial role in the background check process. By having accurate and complete information, we will be able to streamline the process and ensure that those working with our vulnerable members have passed through the necessary vetting stages. This is vital in protecting our children and those who may need additional assistance.
- **Community Trust:** To protect our most vulnerable is to fulfill our commitment to charity, unity, and fraternity. Ensuring that we have responsible individuals in leadership and volunteer positions reinforces our community's trust in the Knights of Columbus. Families need to know that they can rely on us, not just for support but for a safe environment where their loved ones can participate and grow.
- **Protecting Our Fraternal Order:** By taking these necessary steps, we are not just protecting individuals; we are safeguarding the very essence of our fraternal order. The Knights of Columbus is built on a foundation of mutual support and shared values, and we must ensure that those values are reflected in our actions. A scandal or breach of trust could have far-reaching consequences that could undermine our mission and impact our ability to serve.

Let us continue to serve our communities with pride and responsibility, working hand in hand to build a safe and welcoming environment for all. Thank you for your commitment to protecting our brothers, families, and the communities we cherish. *Vivat Jesus!*





**WITH JULY HERE IT SIGNALS** a new fraternal year. We are all tempted to take a couple of months off, but we cannot afford to. The next couple of months will determine how the rest of the year goes. This is the time to organize the council and set the goals for the year. Keep the momentum going from the ending of last year.

Set up your calendar for the upcoming year. The reason is so you do not wait until the last minute to scramble and get it set up. Make sure that your programs are set up and talk with your Parish Priest so there is no conflict. Go over your programs and look to see which ones are successful and which are not. Go ahead and drop the ones that are not successful, and substitute a new one in its place. When doing programs make sure that you invite the whole council to participate in the programs. Call on people to help and not just the reliables. With more help the programs do better and become stronger.

In order to have programs we need new blood in our councils. Please have a Brother Knight who is not part of the program talk to the audience and find out if there is someone who would be interested in helping and ask him to join.

We all need to be more aware what is going on around us. Be available for meetings that are scheduled, especially the ones called by your District Deputies and Diocesan Coordinators. They are here to help you and support your councils. Remember that your attitude is contagious, so keep it up.

Make sure that you are familiar with the Supreme website, because you can get a lot of information and supplies for your programs. Supreme also provides webinars to help you and I invite you to take advantage of this opportunity. Again, if you need anything just ask and have a fun and prosperous year.

*Vivat Jesus!*

**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!**



**THE PATRIOTIC DEGREE HAS BEEN BUSY** working with councils in the past 60 days in such events as Memorial Day parades, grave site services with veteran organizations, graduation ceremonies, Corpus Christi processions and events as well as ordination masses. Most of these have been accomplished with the help of the third degree Councils around the area working with the Assemblies. We are continuing to look for other ways and events that the Assemblies and Councils can work together to make a stronger Knights of Columbus present around the state. Upcoming programs in the state include masses at your parish the are fully

staffed with KC members and the honor guard present, the Silver Rose Program and the St Joseph, Sacred Heart and other icon programs that come to the parish. These are wonderful opportunities for the Assemblies and Councils to work together for a stronger KC presence.

This is the 125th anniversary year of the Patriotic Degree. Please consider joining and be a part of this historic class. Fall exemplifications will be held in October in Beaver Dam and in Baraboo with other sites being considered around the state. Details will be Mailed/emailed to the Grand Knights, Financial Secretaries, District Deputies, Faithful Navigators, Faithful Comptrollers and to Area Coordinators in the upcoming month. Please be sure to discuss them at your Council and Assembly meetings.

Honor Flights are again returning for the fall with the first ones being held in September in Milwaukee, Madison and Central Wisconsin (Mosinee) followed up by a number of flights in October



Fourth Degree Knights lead a Corpus Christi Procession in Watertown, WI.

and November at various locations. Type in Honor Flights in Wisconsin into your browser and look them up for specific details. Be there to welcome back our veterans when they return from their visit to Washington DC and the various Memorials.

The Fourth Degree Honor Guard can stand in honor of a Brother Third Degree Member at his funeral, his spouse's funeral, his parents' funerals and his children's funerals if asked by the family. We are not only for Fourth Degree members. But to do this – we need you or your family to ask us. Both of your Districts in Wisconsin and their Masters like to work together with the Councils. Please ask us if we can be of assistance or help in any way. *Vivat Jesus!*



Fourth Degree Knights and several bishops and arch bishops were present at the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ordination mass for Cardinal Raymond Burke in the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Sunday, June 29. Other notable members in attendance were Vice Supreme Master, Gerry Mattix-Wand and Bishop Battersby.



## ULTRASOUND PROJECTS

Anchor of Hope in Plymouth (additional location) and St. Gianna Clinic in De Pere & CareNet Dane County – Madison. Congratulations to Council(s) #1789, #10714 & #4586 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

## 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 June 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.

## MARCH FOR LIFE WISCONSIN (RESCHEDULED)

Mark your 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!





**WELCOME TO THE NEW 2025-26 FRATERNAL YEAR.** Hope it's a banner year for you and your Councils. In the Community area of the Faith in Action umbrella, Supreme is introducing two new featured programs, Bright Futures and Celebrating Our Catholic Heritage.

While I do not have much information on them yet, you can keep tabs on them as they develop [here](#). As featured programs, participating in them up to a required minimum level will allow you to earn two credits on your 25-26 Columbian Award SP-7 form in the Community area.

In general, the Bright Futures program urges KC Councils to support Catholic schools and students through scholarships; supplies for students, teaches, schools; book drives, needed equipment upgrades and drives; and any other needs the schools may have. These can be done for Back to School, Catholic Schools Week, 3 Kings Day, etc.

The Celebrating Our Catholic Heritage program seeks to get councils majorly involved in sponsoring, planning and organizing, staffing festivals or other events at your parishes that celebrate the cultures and traditions of parish communities, featuring food, music, art, devotions, and more.

In many respects, this could be an expansion on or development of leadership in events already done that many councils have reported as Helping Hands projects on your 10784s. More on these as I get added details.

## REMINDERS

- > Start now to get your Coats for Kids projects and orders arranged. Check KnightsGear.com for selection and pricing. The Supreme/State BOGO deal will be continued again this year with some price and quality adjustments. There will be continued emphasis on membership growth from Black Friday events as well.
- > Keep up the great work on Helping Hands, Habitat, Global Wheelchairs, PPK. Start organizing your fall-winter programs now. Really think about hosting a Soccer Challenge this fall. Work with school to do during gym class or recess!
- > For Free Throw and Knowledge, we may be looking for a new site for the State Contest in 2026. After many great years at Wisconsin Rapids Assumption, they may be looking to hand off the Contest elsewhere. If you may be interested in hosting (April 18, 25 or May 2), let me know. It is preferable to host these somewhere centrally located in the State.
- > 4) The topic for the Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest in October/November has been announced. It is "Out of 267 popes that have led the Catholic Church, who are your 3 favorite popes and why?" Start getting this information to schools, religious ed teachers, homeschoolers now. I hope it works out.

Have a great July!

*Vivat Jesus!*



# Knights of Columbus®





# SPOTLIGHT

## Apostolate Outing at Devil's Lake

**ON THURSDAY, JUNE 5**, the Apostolate for Persons with Disabilities-Diocese of Madison's annual summer outing was hosted at Devil's Lake Park in Baraboo, WI. Attendees enjoyed ice cream, beautiful scenery, and most importantly, mass celebrated by Bishop Donald J. Hying of Madison, along with concelebrants Msgr. Larry Bakke (Apostolate's Chaplain), Msgr. Duane Moellenberndt (retired priest), and Fr. Randy Timmerman (Pastorate Parochial Administrator for St. John Henry Newman).



## Jubilee Year of Hope Ascension Pilgrimage

By John and Joan Kleist

**ON MAY 31ST**, nearly 200 people from Wausau and surrounding Parishes in Marathon County made a pilgrimage to Church of the Resurrection. Church of the Resurrection is one of the places in the diocese of La Crosse that has been designated as a place of pilgrimage for the 2025 Jubilee Year.

The Deanery clergy invited Catholics from throughout Marathon County to participate in the pilgrimage by walking or driving to Resurrection. Parish groups were announced upon their arrival. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament including scripture and hymns was held along with Evening prayer and Benediction.

The evening concluded with the **Knights of Columbus Council #1069** of Wausau preparing and serving a welcomed reception.

*Vivat Jesus!*



# Discerning the Call: A Journey Into the Seminary

By Kevin Boening

**SOME OF YOU MAY REMEMBER ME** as a former District Deputy, Diocesan Program Coordinator, and Assistant New Council Development Coordinator a couple years ago. Some of you may also have even found yourself wondering what in the happened to me or maybe not—perhaps I should work on that whole pride thing. A few months ago, Rick Raulin at the state office mentioned that he thought some folks may appreciate this update. At the time, I wasn't quite ready to write about it as there was still a considerable amount of uncertainty as to what my immediate next step along this path was. However, now that that uncertainty is largely gone, I felt it was time to let you all know why my involvement with the Knights changed so suddenly.

Around a year-and-a-half ago, as I was making many trips back and forth to Milwaukee along with State New Council Development Director Ron Faust to start new Knights of Columbus councils, I began to hear a voice telling me something to the effect of "You're right, Kevin. I do have much work for you to do for the Kingdom, but this [new council development] is not the work that I have in mind." I was quite taken aback. I had never felt a calling like this before, so I decided that it was something I needed to explore more. I began going to daily Mass several times throughout the week as often as I felt I could. I also picked up a spiritual director for unrelated reasons—suffice it to say, there were certain "bad habits" that I wanted to eliminate from my life as much as possible. Both the daily Mass attendance and the spiritual direction were providing much fruit in my life, and I could really feel the Lord working on me and pulling me closer to him.

As time went on, I began to wonder whether or not that other work that I was being called to was the priesthood. I remember at the end of one of my spiritual direction sessions, I said to my spiritual director something to the effect of, "I can't believe I'm going to ask you this, but how did you know you were being called to be a priest?" The answer I got was similar enough to the way I felt and some of the things I had been doing that had been bearing that spiritual fruit were also present in his story. After hearing this, I decided that I needed to contact the Vocations Director for the Madison Diocese.

I sent an email to Fr. Jared, the Vocations Director for the Diocese of Madison, and he got back to me within the

next few days and we had dinner. We had a good conversation about my journey so far, but I also let him know of my intentions to reach out to the Diocese of Victoria where I had grown up down in Texas. We came to the decision that day that I should reach out to Fr. Kristopher, the Vocations Director there. We spoke on the phone a few days later. Both Fr. Jared and Fr. Kristopher gave me different materials and books to help with my discernment, the most notable being the books *Discernment 180*, which is really a whole program for discerning the diocesan priesthood over the course of 180 days and *To Save a Thousand Souls* which is considered by some to be the definitive guide for discerning the diocesan priesthood.

As I went through the exercises in *Discernment 180*, it seemed clear that I was being called to the seminary, but as this became clearer, a new question arose: Which diocese do I apply to? I had originally thought that I would go back to Victoria and apply there, but I felt an equally strong call to the Diocese of Madison. I informed both Vocations Directors of these growing feelings and also arranged visits to the seminaries used by each diocese. Ultimately, my discernment, prayer, and visits led me to conclude that I was being called to Madison. I informed Fr. Kristopher of my decision and asked Fr. Jared for an application.

That was back in December 2024. Since then, I turned in my application for the Madison Diocese in February, had interviews with the diocesan screening board in March, and shortly thereafter I received word that Bishop Hying of Madison had accepted my application to be a seminarian. The last step was acceptance into the seminary. Fr. Jared sent me the application for St. Francis de Sales Seminary in St. Francis, WI and I sent that in. On Friday, May 2, 2025, I received word from the seminary that my application had been accepted and that I was officially admitted as a seminarian entering the Propaedeutic Stage of priestly formation, which brings us to where we are now.

I hope that my story is helpful and gratifying to you. Please do pray for me and know of my prayers for you. Should our paths cross again, please don't be a stranger! It is always good to be in the presence of a Brother Knight!

*Vivat Jesus!*





# SPOTLIGHT

## Remembering Those Who Are Gone, but Not Forgotten: Living the Virtue of Charity

By SK Michael Haight



**IT CAN BE VERY DIFFICULT TO PASS A CEMETERY** and think to oneself where you may go when God calls us from this vale of tears during our judgement. But as Catholics, we know there is great hope in the salvation of heaven as our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ died for us on the Cross so save us from our sins and open the Gates of Heaven

Some cemeteries we see no longer have a parish church next to them or the church building has been closed and has been neglected or forgotten. This is not the case with the cemetery at Bad Axe – St. Patrick of Ireland in rural Cashton. The church, sadly, was struck by lightning and burned in 1936. It then became a mission to Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish at St. Mary's Ridge and was later transferred to Ss. Peter & Paul Parish near Pine Hollow until that parish church closed and ultimately transferred to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Cashton.

Many headstones of those mid-1800 settlers have deteriorated and fallen over and have been in much need of repair and restoration. **The Cashton Council #7096** has taken up the challenge to begin working on restoring those headstones. Thanks to volunteers who came out on Saturday, May 10 to repair headstones at St. Patrick (Bad Axe) Cemetery. Many cemetery monuments had fallen over and become partially buried over the many decades. Six headstones were excavated and reset in new concrete bases, and bases were prepared for three additional monuments. The council continues to plan to schedule additional cemetery repair events to help honor those who came before us in faith. *Vivat Jesus!*



Checks mailed to:

**Attn:** Ernest L. Reinhart

Wisconsin State Council Knights of Columbus

4297 West Beltline Highway

Madison, WI 53711

## WISCONSIN STATE COUNCIL DISASTER

**RESPONSE MISSION:** To promote education and training for Local and State Disaster Relief teams and assist Councils and their Members in the Wisconsin State Council jurisdiction during a disaster.

As a member of the Wisconsin VOAD, all organizational members training may be offered to the Knights of Columbus membership, when available.

Wisconsin K of C Disaster Relief Team recommends two opportunities for free disaster relief training:

### > **American Red Cross / Blood Drives**

The American Red Cross and other organizations provide free disaster training for all volunteers. Training is both online and in-person depending on the course. To find out more about these training opportunities please contact [your local Red Cross office](#).

### **Disaster Cycle Services Overview**

This course is the first in the Disaster Cycle Services course curriculum. It provides an overview of how DCS fulfills the Red Cross mission and describes the whole cycle process of helping individuals, families and communities to prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters. The course also reviews the role of community and government partners and describes opportunities for volunteers in Disaster Cycle Services.

### > **Wisconsin Certified Emergency Manager Program Certified Emergency Manager**

Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM), in cooperation with the Wisconsin Emergency Management Association (WEMA), administers the Wisconsin Certified Emergency Manager (WCEM) program. This program recognizes the individual efforts of dedicated Wisconsin responders, emergency managers and interested persons – both professional and volunteer – as they expand their knowledge and experience to ready themselves to respond to any type of emergency or disaster affecting their municipality, state, tribe or nation. The WCEM program fosters a continued culture of excellence among Wisconsin's emergency management professionals.

The program is divided into three ranks, Basic, Professional, and Advanced Professional. Each level corresponds to an increasing level of complexity and commitment. The WCEM program is open to anyone and is not based on profession or educational degree. Aside from the listed prerequisites found in the guiding documents on this page, the only requirement is any interested candidate participates in a position related to emergency management. This includes the five national frameworks/mission areas:

Prevention, Protection, Mitigation, Response and Recovery.

Candidates who successfully complete any WCEM level will receive a certificate signed by the Governor of the State of Wisconsin, the WEM Administrator and the President of WEMA. This certificate is presented at the annual Wisconsin Governor's Conference on Emergency Management and Homeland Security.

### **WCEM – Basic**

The Basic level is the introductory level. Prerequisites are based entirely upon completing a set course of training, the majority of which are FEMA Independent Study courses that can be completed at the candidate's own pace. A handful of the prerequisite courses are in-person classes that WEM typically holds once or twice per year. These classes can be completed in any order (though each may have their own prerequisites that a potential student must complete prior to attendance), but a candidate must attend and complete each course (including any testing requirements) to receive credit. All such classes are free to attend, but the candidate (or their agency) is responsible for transportation, lodging and meal costs. Finally, a WCEM – Basic candidate must pass a written knowledge test of State Statute 323 to complete requirements for this level. A new candidate can reasonably expect to complete the WCEM – Basic level in one to three years.

Contact me for further information if needed.

## **2025 GOALS**

- > 40+ Councils hosting ARC Blood Drives
- > Full Disaster Relief Team in place by March 2025
- > Food Trucks acquired and licensed in each Diocese
- > Two Trailers or Multi Use Trailers in each Diocese – Move Tools/Equipment to disaster areas

## **PREPARE TO SURVIVE- EMERGENCY KITS (OTHER STATES GUIDELINES)**

### **Home and Car Suggestions:**

- > Emergency situations can happen at any time, making it crucial that you are prepared for the unexpected long before it happens. Plan for possible emergencies:
- > Research and prepare for natural disasters common to your area, such as floods, tornadoes/hurricanes, snow and sleet storms, or earthquakes.
- > Create an emergency kit for both your home and car.
- > Create a home emergency plan with your family and learn how to shut off your utilities.
- > Store important phone numbers, including those of family members, with other important documents in a fire-proof safe or safety deposit box. (bank record and insurance papers)



- Learn first aid and CPR for children and adults – check out the NSC First Aid app.
- Stock Your Emergency Kits Now!
- Emergency kits can help you prepare for the worst, but only if they are properly stocked and regularly refreshed.
- Your home emergency kit should be very accessible and contain:
  - Food and water for each family member for three days as well as a can opener and nonperishable foods, such as tuna and peanut butter.
  - Hand-crank or battery-powered flashlight and radio with extra batteries.
  - Full first aid kit, including hand sanitizer and garbage bags.
  - Plastic sheeting and duct tape for broken windows or a leaky roof.
  - Whistle to signal for help so rescuers can locate you.
  - Your car emergency kit should contain:
    - A properly inflated spare tire, wheel wrench, tripod jack and jumper cables.
    - A tool kit, compass, duct tape and car charger for your cell phone.
    - A flashlight with extra batteries, a rain poncho, and a fire extinguisher.
    - Reflective triangles and vest, and brightly colored cloth to make your vehicle more visible.
    - A first aid kit and enough nonperishable food and water for three days.
    - Cold weather items such as a snow brush, shovel, windshield washer fluid, warm clothing, cat litter for traction and blankets, and hand warmers packs.
    - If sheltering at home, take proper safety precautions if using a generator or fuel type heaters. CO2 is a silent killer.
    - Preparation is the key to survival! Do it now!

## WISCONSIN KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL / DISTRICT DISASTER PROGRAM PLAN

**Part One:** District Deputies, break your area up into workable sections. If you have a vast area to cover then break your area into 4-6 sections. Select 2-3 Brother Knight Council Members in centrally located sections, they do not have to be officers, we recommend retired members who can be around the area all day to be able to make phone calls or drive out in his selected area if necessary to check on Brother Knights in case of a disaster. We refer to these Brother Knights as Section Coordinators. The local diocese regional director will be the point person for each incident noted.

The District Deputy will supply a list of all Knights in each

of the 4/6 sections with the Name, Addresses, Phone numbers, Emails, and other contact information for every Section Coordinator Knight in each area to the Deputy Director in the respective Diocese.

If a Disaster should hit, your community.

Until the State Disaster Response Team or other service organizations units arrive, the Council Disaster Response Team can call upon other brother Knights who are home and able (who might have a truck or van), go pick up tarps, food or clothing and other supplies needed in his area. The Red Cross, Catholics Charities and all others disaster service organizations will know about the disaster that hit your area and they will also, be on the move. (WISCONSIN VOAD)

Councils are requested to set up a Council Disaster Fund to help their Brother Knights until the other charitable units get to the scene. This fund can be a Credit Card or Bank Debit Card with a set amount set aside for this purpose ONLY. Keep the location for this account where the Council Disaster Team Coordinator can access it without any delay. (Councils Officers and Trustees should develop a set of SOP-protocols for its usage.)

**Part Two:** Each Council / District should now prepare a Disaster Response Plan to determine how and where your key councils are to continue to operate during a disaster and how you can serve your community once you have met the immediate needs of your members. If you are a parish-based Council your plan should include, how do you help support the parish and schools if required. If your council serves multiple parishes all should be included in your planning. Remember when developing your Council / District DR Plan, normal means of communication may not be readily available for weeks. Power, phones, both landlines and cell could be out for weeks.

Plans should include input from the Grand Knight and Financial Secretary to review all possible facilities that can be used for shelters or distribution points.

The Council DR Coordinator should work with the local emergency agencies, fire and police departments, etc. to see where the Knights can be of assistance. (Local COAD)

**Part Three:** Prepare a "Plan of Action" on how you may be able to assist your neighboring Knights of Columbus Councils should they be hit by a disaster. (the council affected by a disaster may be busy digging themselves out and will need your help.) Secure the contact information of the Grand Knight and FS from all adjoining Councils. (or District)

Always keep your State Director and the respective Deputy Director of your Diocese apprised of all ongoing operations, as he may be able to secure additional assistance.

**In service to One.**

**In service to all.**

