

BADGER BULLETIN

JUNE 2026



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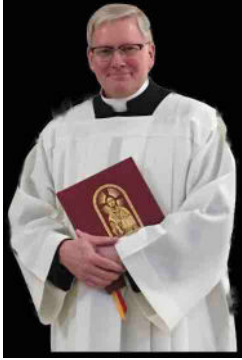
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The Blessed Virgin Mary: Model of Faith, Courage, and Charity



AS I CONCLUDE MY TIME as Chaplain of our Knights of Columbus for the State of Wisconsin, my heart is filled with gratitude—deep, sincere, and hard-earned through the many moments we have shared in faith, service, and fraternity. Serving alongside you has been one of the great privileges of my priesthood. You have strengthened my ministry as much as I have

hoped to strengthen yours.

When I first accepted the role of chaplain, I knew I would be walking with men committed to charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism. What I did not yet know was how profoundly your witness would shape me. I have seen you serve the poor quietly, defend the dignity of life courageously, support your parishes generously, and care for one another as true brothers in Christ. These are not small things. They are the marks of Catholic manhood lived with integrity.

I am especially grateful for the countless ways you welcomed me into your work—whether at meetings, exemplifications, service projects, or moments of prayer.

You allowed me to preach to you, challenge you, laugh with you, and accompany you. You allowed me to be your priest. For that, I will always be thankful.

As I step aside from this role, I want to leave you with a simple encouragement: Stay rooted in prayer, stay faithful to the sacraments, and stay united as brothers. The Knights of Columbus is at its best when its men are grounded in Christ and committed to one another. Your councils have strong foundations, and I have every confidence that the Holy Spirit will continue to guide your work.

Please know that although my formal service as chaplain is ending, my affection and prayers for you are not. I will continue to carry you with me in my heart and in my Masses. I ask you to pray for me as well—that I may continue to serve the Church with the same dedication and fraternity that you have shown me.

May St. Joseph, protector of the Church and model of faithful manhood, watch over you. May Blessed Michael McGivney intercede for you. And may Christ, our true King, keep you steadfast in faith and generous in charity.

Vivat Jesus!



THIS IS MY LAST ARTICLE as your State Deputy and my hope is that it reaches as many of you as possible.

My sincere thank you to all the State Officers, Directors, Committee members and Council Officers and members in general across the State of

Wisconsin that have supported the initiatives that were part of my objectives as your State Deputy. A special thank you to all our Ladies that supported us and made allowances at home while we were away handling our assigned duties.

I believe from the positive responses I received, our 125th Annual convention was well received. The State Technology Team worked very hard to have a new website available for your review which will greatly enhance the level of support and information you all need to handle your daily operations and timely & up to date communications regarding programs and future events overall. Your response to the website preview was overwhelming.

As we enter the final month of this fraternal year, through your continued efforts, we are very, very close to having Wisconsin achieve the ultimate Circle of Honor recognition from Supreme.

Here is where I need your council's help now, and I ask that you take this request seriously: Although we are setting new records in growth with 1,107 new members already added as of May 22nd. and only need 36 more before June 30th. Wisconsin cannot achieve Circle of Honor without also having a minimum of 51 Star Councils.

Attaining Star Council Status is your council's ultimate goal. This status means your council is continuing to be active in your communities and in your parish and your council is growing your membership so as to maintain your good works for many years to come.

To date, 13 of the 51 councils needed have already achieve their Star Council Status. Great work men! 34 others of the 51 needed are already at or over 100% and just need to finalize the pending Fraternal Benefit events to qualify as a Star Council. Once those 34 finish their Fraternal Benefit Event requirements we will only need a minimum of four more councils to reach our goal of a minimum of 51 Star Councils. There are many councils that are very close to achieving 100% and already completed all the other programs.

Depending on where your councils stand to date, can I get your commitment to get your Fraternal Benefit Events and 100% intake completed by June 15th?

I would be grateful to all of you "God willing" to end my term as your State Deputy showing Supreme and the other 73 Jurisdictions that the Wisconsin Jurisdiction Knights of Columbus membership has demonstrated what it takes to go above and beyond by receiving the Prestigious Circle of Honor award on your behalf at the Supreme Convention in Denver Colorado in August 2026.

I also look forward to serving next year as the Immediate Past State Deputy. I offer my congratulations and hereby commit my full support to the new slate of State Officers and the membership in general as we move forward into another exciting year.

Thank you all for the opportunity to serve all of you these past two years.

Viat Jesus!



I THANK YOU SINCERELY for your confidence and the election to be your next State Deputy. At the Convention I offered a glimpse into our next 125 years of Knights in Wisconsin. I shared the fact that there are 600,000 Catholic men in Wisconsin. I asked everyone to make that our goal then, 600,000 Knights in Wisconsin and not only that, 600,000 Sir Knights here in Wisconsin. Now, you may say that is a lofty goal or even a nutty and unrealistic goal, but here's the thing. If we visualize it, if we put our faith in action as Knights, guys will notice and the Holy Spirit will lead

them to join us. Let us be the best Knights we can so they know we are Christians by our Love.

To drive it home, remember the philosophical metaphor to "Aim for the moon" because, although it is a lofty goal and maybe an unattainable target, if we miss the moon, at least we will land amongst the stars. Wouldn't that be something to be proud of? The opposite is true too. If we set our goal low and instead "Aim for the manure pile" then by golly we'll hit it every time and where does that get us? Little effort and little gain.

I ask you Brother, will you also envision 600,000 Sir Knights in Wisconsin?

Thank you Worthy State Deputy Patrick for your leadership and this good place we've taken Wisconsin to and we appreciate all your hard work.

Vivat Jesus!

STATE MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

LESTER KOSTERA

AS WE APPROACH THE END of this fraternal year, I want to express how proud I am of all we have accomplished together. Thanks to your dedication, we are now only 33 members away from achieving the State Circle of Honor. This is an outstanding milestone, and each of you has played a vital role in getting us here.

However, we still have work to do. Several councils have not yet completed the required programs, and we need **51 Star Councils** to reach our goal. Please ensure all necessary forms are submitted to the state as soon as possible. I have full confidence that, with your continued commitment, we will finish strong.

Let us also remember that **Blessed Father Michael McGivney** is watching over us and is proud of the work we

do in service to our Order, our Church, and our communities.

Thank you again for your tireless efforts and unwavering dedication. As a final note, our State Deputy-Elect, Ross Larson, has asked me to continue serving as **State Membership Director**, and I look forward to supporting you all in the year ahead.

May God bless each and every one of you.

Vivat Jesus!





MAY WAS A SLOWER MONTH for e-membership with only 53 new e-members. Councils transferred 57 e-members into Councils this month. I also know that we all had a lot going on in May with Mother's Day, State Convention, and Memorial Day.

As we near the end of the Fraternal Year, it is important that Councils review their Prospect List (e-members) and Candidate Lists and bring in as many new members as possible. Many Councils are 1 or 2 members away from earning the McGivney Award, and bringing in these Prospects and Candidates might be the new brothers that they need. While in person exemplifications are preferred, if schedules are not working out, please use the On-Demand Online Exemplification to get these brothers into your Councils and then invite them to get involved.

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.

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, email it to Supreme, and keep 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

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

Used 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.

ONLINE CEREMONIAL

Click on this box to take you to the **Online Ceremonial** invitation site.



I WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND my sincere and heartfelt thanks to all of you for the trust and confidence you have placed in me by electing me as your next State Secretary. It is truly an honor to serve the Wisconsin Knights of Columbus in this capacity, and I look forward to continuing my work in

support of our state leadership, councils, and brother Knights across Wisconsin.

Having had the privilege to serve as your State Treasurer, I remain deeply grateful for the collaboration, diligence, and commitment shown by our councils in maintaining the financial health of our jurisdiction. In particular, I want to recognize and thank the many councils who have already completed their spring per capita payments. Your timely attention to this responsibility ensures that our state operations continue to run smoothly and that we can effectively support the

mission and programs that define our Order.

For those councils who have not yet submitted their spring per capita, I kindly encourage you to do so at your earliest convenience. Staying current with per capita obligations is a vital part of our collective responsibility and enables us to maintain the strength and stability of the Wisconsin State Council.

As we move into the summer season, I want to thank each of you for the incredible work you continue to do in your parishes and communities. Whether through charitable initiatives, faith-based programming, or brotherhood activities, your dedication is what keeps our Order vibrant and impactful. The summer months provide a wonderful opportunity to build on this momentum—continuing to serve, recruit, and grow in faith together.

Let us carry forward the spirit of charity, unity, and fraternity as we enter this next chapter. I am humbled to serve alongside you and look forward to all that we will accomplish together in the year ahead.

Vivat Jesus!

AS WE CONCLUDE ANOTHER successful fraternal year, we extend our congratulations to Wisconsin's newly elected State Council Officers. We thank them for their willingness to serve and look forward to working together as we continue strengthening the Fourth Degree throughout our state.

We also congratulate **Fr. Francis Heindl Assembly 1902** on being selected as the Marquette Province nominee for the prestigious "**To Be A Patriot**" Award. Chosen from among 183 assemblies throughout Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Illinois, their *God, Country, Flag* program, which was featured at this year's State Convention, exemplifies the patriotic spirit that defines the Fourth Degree.

Memorial Day weekend provided a powerful reminder of that spirit. Across Wisconsin, Sir Knights participated in Masses, memorial services, cemetery observances, flag ceremonies, parades, and veterans' tributes, standing shoulder to shoulder with veterans organizations, clergy, and community leaders in honoring those who gave their lives in service to our nation.

One example was Marquette Assembly 1197 in Green Bay, where Sir Knights joined members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and Polish Legion of American Veterans during a Memorial Day observance at Prince of Peace Parish. The event included recognition of the newly installed Veterans & Clergy Memorial sponsored by the assembly and served as a visible reminder of our commitment to faith, patriotism, and remembrance.

Whether serving in Honor Guards, participating in patriotic ceremonies, or supporting parish and community events, Wisconsin's Fourth Degree members



demonstrated that patriotism remains alive and well in our Order. We thank every Sir Knight who answered the call to serve during Memorial Day weekend.

As we enter the final month of the fraternal year, we encourage all assemblies to finish strong. Complete outstanding forms, submit Civic Award applications, continue recruiting worthy Catholic men, and prepare for America's 250th Anniversary celebration. The Supreme Knight has invited councils and assemblies to support this historic milestone through **250 Hours of Adoration** and **250 Works of Mercy**, providing meaningful opportunities for Knights and their families to put faith into action.

Thank you to every Wisconsin Sir Knight, Assembly Officer, Marshal, and Honor Guard member for your dedication throughout the year. Together, we continue to demonstrate what it means to be visible Catholic Patriots in service to God, Church, community, and country.

Vivat Jesus!



AS WE NEAR THE END of the '25-'26 Fraternal Year and start of the new '26-'27 Fraternal Year, I congratulate all those Councils who've done well this year in their Community and Youth oriented programs. I hope you receive the Columbian and Star Council Awards you've justly earned! If you

are close but not yet there, use this last month wisely to get those last few programs taken care of. A final Habitat project, Helping Hands activity, Global Wheelchair fundraiser or purchase, Disaster Prep program, Secure Futures or Celebrating Our Catholic Heritage activity can still be completed. A local Soccer Challenge could also still be done.

Remember to get your 10784s in for all your programs yet to be reported and your SP-7 completed and in soon if not already done. Many thanks to all of you who've already completed these worthy tasks.

Alas, this is my last article for the Badger Bulletin as I am stepping down as State Community and Youth Programs Director after 18 consecutive years of involvement with the State Officer Team for a needed hiatus. I wish them all great success in the coming fraternal year.

I've enjoyed working with them and all of you. It was great to see and talk with so many of you at the recent State Convention. I'd also like to thank all the State and Diocesan Officers and Directors, District Deputies and Grand Knights, Council Officers I've worked with and assisted over the years.

While the State PPK (and Soccer if needed) Contests will likely be held again at Newman High School in Wausau (October 31 or November 7), we may need a new site for the Knowledge and Free Throw Contests as Wisconsin Rapids has indicated they may wish to retire from that role. If you'd be interested in hosting those contests, please let me or new State Deputy Ross Larson know as soon as you can.

Also, if anyone is interested in the roles of Community Programs Director or Youth Academics Coordinator (essay contests, Knowledge Contest) or Youth Athletics Coordinator (PPK, Free Throw, Soccer, Hockey Skills), let me or Ross know as well. I'd be glad to meet and talk with you anytime at your convenience. If you'd be interested in taking on leadership of just one of those programs listed above or others such as Coats for Kids, Habitat, Wheelchairs, etc., let us know as well and we'll get together with you ASAP.

Thanks once again and blessings to you all.

Vivat Jesus!



SPOTLIGHT A ROSARY A MONTH

ASSEMBLY 1209 BEGINS NEW ROSARY TRADITION

THE ASSEMBLIES OF BELOIT AND JANESVILLE gathered to read a short prayer then prayed a Rosary for our fallen veterans on Monday, May 30th. There were 28 people who met at the Veterans area in Mt. Olivet. Given the success of the inaugural event, the councils plan on making this a monthly event through the summer, meeting the **3rd Saturday at 3PM.**



NEED HELP WITH ULTRASOUND FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN?

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

> We have no Ultrasound Projects going on at this time! Thank you for your support in this area! If you are thinking about heading one up, I have one for you to do **in Uganda!** Contact me [here](#).

STATE COUNCIL CULTURE OF LIFE FUND

If your council wants to contribute to the Culture of Life Grant Fund, please get your checks postmarked to State Council before June 30, 2026. So far, including \$1,094 in cash donations, council checks of \$6,941.79 and your individual donations of \$140,673.11 we've raised \$148,708.90. The more money we have to give away means more babies saved from abortion in Wisconsin. Make your check out to:

Wisconsin State Council

P.O. Box 221

Brookfield, WI 53008-0221

ASAP GRANTS

Hopefully the month of May 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 match it with \$100. But, you have to [apply for it!](#) You only need two forms, a [Donation Receipt Letter](#) and a [W9](#).

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.

You can also purchase Pro-Life license plates. The more plates we have on the road, the more the pro-life message will be shared, and the more money there will be for the Pregnancy Resource Centers. The extra \$25 you pay for the plate is **tax deductible** if you itemize on Schedule A. More information [here](#).

Vivat Jesus!



JOIN THE FATHER MICHAEL MCGIVNEY GUILD



Honor His Legacy. Advance His Cause.

Strengthen Your Faith During the Jubilee Year of Hope.

As the Church celebrates the Jubilee Year of Hope, Catholics everywhere are called to renew their faith and walk more closely with Christ. What better way to respond than by drawing inspiration from our founder, Blessed Michael J. McGivney, who gave his life to strengthening families, building parish communities, and bringing hope to those on the margins.

By joining the Father McGivney Guild, you can (1) support his cause for sainthood and pray for his canonization, (2) deepen your spiritual life through his intercession during this Jubilee of grace, and (3) Publicly witness to our Catholic hope as a member of his spiritual family.

Membership is free and open to all who believe in his mission. Guild members receive inspiring newsletters, spiritual reflections, and invitations to special devotions honoring Blessed McGivney. Let's help make our founder a saint.

McGivney Guild Chairman

Jack Wrbanich, PSD



WITH THE CONVENTION behind us we must look forward to finishing this year strong. You may wonder why we want to help our council and the next Grand Knight start off on a positive note. We want everyone to succeed!

We can help this happen. With the elections of council officers this month we need to look ahead and help start preparing the council for the upcoming year. Please send in your 365 and the 185, even if the officer's list is incomplete. You can always fill it in some other time. The most important thing to do is to send it in. This sets us on the path of success!

We all need to plan ahead so take some time and mark the programs for the upcoming year on your calendar. Just because it is getting to be nice weather or people going out

of town doesn't mean programs should stop. Just remember that if there is at least one brother knight around, a program can happen!

Please remember to send in your 10784's because we need to help the State of Wisconsin finish the year strong. With that said we need to make sure that we are compliant on our Safety Environment, and our Fraternal Benefit programs. In doing so, the State will reach their(our) goal and surpass it.

It is also time to thank those of you that have worked so hard in making the Knights of Columbus what we are today. To those of you leaving office, a big thank you for all that you did to take your council to reach higher ground.

It is also time to consider what more could you do to help others in more of an advisory position. If interested please contact our newly elected State Deputy Ross Larson to discuss what you can do to improve our State be more efficient.

Vivat Jesus!



SUMMER IS FAST APPROACHING, and what a great time of the year it is! School is winding down for many boys & girls (if not already out of school) and we will be enjoying fun-filled summer "Family Activities" by all! I recently looked up the definition of "family" and it is "Fundamentally a group of people connected by blood, marriage, adoption, or deep emotional bonds. It serves as

the primary social unit, providing its members with security, identity, and support." It goes on to talk about a "True Family" which is defined by loyalty, mutual support, and unconditional love. It also talked about passing on & sharing moral values. It is no wonder a family is so vitally important in a person's life! With all this being said, I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge "Family" summer activities as being so vitally important for us all! Take time this month of June and beyond to enjoy some great

"family" summer activities!

On that same note of family; I need to share the "Family of the Year" winners from each of our five (5) Dioceses in Wisconsin. Starting with the Green Bay Diocese Family of the Year was the Marvin & Robyn Krall family. The La Crosse Diocese Family of the Year was the Jim & Deb Purucker family. The Madison Diocese Family of the Year was the Ken & Mary Breunig family. The Archdiocese of Milwaukee Family of the Year was the Brian and Sandra Dhein family. The Superior Diocese Family of the Year was the Darryl and Karen Helenius family. The State Family of the Year for the 2025/2026 Fraternal year was the Marvin & Robyn Krall family.

Congratulations, to all the Families of Wisconsin! Your dedication and support of your loved ones is truly an amazing trait!

In closing, I wanted to let you know that I dropped a few programs and activities below for your reference. I believe that's all for now. Until we meet again: Take care, stay healthy, and God bless us all!

Vivat Jesus!

Run the Race

Joshua Hopper

WHEN I TAUGHT AT LAFAYETTE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL in Lafayette, Indiana, I remember that each school year was guided by a core theme. One year, it was the fruits of the spirit and it was very effective. I will never forget that the fruits are **not coconuts**, but instead are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. One year the theme was the verse from Hebrews 12:1–2:

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us..."

With the school year wrapping for me, this verse is especially powerful. We run the race of life every day. But we need to

stop and ask ourselves how the race is going. Are we running mindlessly or are we running with a focus?

The last part of that verse states that we must run the race with our eyes fixed on Jesus. Take a deep look at your lives. Wherever you are in your life, you can still run this race. Are you going to run mindlessly and or are you going to let Jesus be your guide?

So often in life I find myself wishing I had more wealth, more friends, better relationships, etc. I focus on these things and I lose focus on Jesus and His plan for my life. I become disappointed and discouraged. I vent to others. I fail to call upon Jesus. Am I running my own race or the race that Jesus laid out for me?

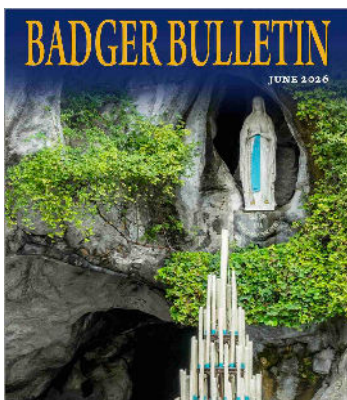
What are you doing?

Vivat Jesus!



SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

- Keep articles below 500 words.
- Submit word docs to **kc2055pr@gmail**
- 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! Late submissions will be excluded from future publications.



ON THE COVER: OUR LADY OF LOURDES

Our Lady of Lourdes appeared eighteen times to St. Bernadette in a small grotto in France. She revealed herself as the Immaculate Conception and encouraged St. Bernadette to dedicate prayer and penance to the conversion of sinners. Over the course of the apparitions, Our Lady taught St. Bernadette a secret prayer that she recited until the day she died, “three wonderful secrets” that have never been revealed, and instructed her to bathe in and drink from the fountain on site. Since there was no fountain present, St. Bernadette dug into the gravel, revealing a pond. The stream has since then become a source of healing for many who visit the grotto. (Source: Ascension Press, all rights reserved)

In service to One.

In service to all.

