



Knights of Columbus Newsletter

Charity ~ Unity ~ Fraternity ~ Patriotism



Official Newsletter of the Knights of Columbus of Missouri

VOLUME 12, NO 1

“Honoring Faith, Serving Community”

AUGUST 2025



STATE MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR BRIAN ZIEGLER

Greetings brotherKnights and families. Another fraternal year is upon us. We had an excellent year last year in-growing our order. We had 51 STAR councils in the STATE which is the most ever and we brought in the most members in a fraternal year than we have in the past 10 plus years. Missouri reached the 44,000 mark for brother Knights.

All those numbers are good but we can and must do better. 44,00 Knights is less than 15 percent of the Catholic men in Missouri. Why is growing our order so important? Without growing the order who will be there to defend our faith and our priests? If we don't grow the order who will be there to help support Special Olympics Missouri? Or The Knights Of Columbus center for children with developmental disabilities at Cardinal Glennon?

So my ask of everyone reading this is simple. I ask that you extend an invitation to 1 catholic male age 18 and over to join the Knights. The process is simple they go to www.kofc.org/joinus and fill out the form making sure to use BLESSEDMCGIVNEY in the promo code slot and then submit it. They will then need to watch for a confirmation email they need to respond to and once these steps are done they are members of Missouri Knights Of Columbus

Vivat Jesus

STATE PROGRAM DIRECTOR CHUCK PAQUETTE



Get Ready for a Busy Knights of Columbus Summer and Fall! Summer is in full swing and the Knights of Columbus calendar is packed with exciting events and important initiatives stretching into the fall. Now is the time for councils to get organized and prepare for a productive few months!**Upcoming Key Initiatives:**

- **Soccer Challenge:** Councils should be actively planning their Soccer Challenge events and placing orders for their kits. This popular program is a great way to engage youth in your communities.
- **Drive for Developmental Disabilities (DDD):** Preparing for the annual Drive for Developmental Disabilities should be a top priority. This crucial initiative supports individuals with intellectual disabilities, and early planning ensures a successful drive. The 51st Annual 'Tootsie Roll' Event will have event dates of October 10-12 and 17-19, with a goal of raising \$700,000.

Don't Miss These Fantastic Events: Mark your calendars for these special statewide gatherings:

- **Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Miraculous Medal Perryville:** Join fellow Knights for a spiritual journey on **Saturday, August 9th.**
- **State Horseshoe Tournament in Oran:** Test your pitching skills from **August 15th to 17th.**
- **State Sporting Clay Shoot in Old Monroe:** Get ready for a day of shooting on **Saturday, September 6th.**

For more information on these events and to stay up-to-date on all Knights of Columbus happenings, visit our state website at <http://mokofc.org>. Look for the "Events" or "Calendar" in the big white box to find all the details.

Pray Three Hail Marys
To End Abortion

STATE COMMUNITY DIRECTOR JOHN "ROCKY" GAMBON

As many of you may or may not know, the District Deputies throughout the state gather in July to learn of our new programs and be updated on current programs. This July, our meetings went well with lots of information being shared as well as good and not-so-good practices for membership, initiating programs and revising old one. There was a lot of excitement in the programs that were presented and the great speakers that energized the room.

That being said, our 53rd year working the Drive for Developmental Disabilities is upon us and I hope you all are as excited as I am to get this drive going. Like last year, all Schnucks stores throughout Missouri have been secured for council use to distribute Tootsie Rolls. I have been reaching out to councils to verify if they still want the same locations from last year. If you want to secure a Schnucks' location in your area for your Developmental drive, please contact me at JGambon3645@gmail.com with your council's name and the ACTUAL ADDRESS of the Schnucks store that you want to hand out the tootsie rolls. We have two weekends October 10-12 and October 17-19th so we should have a place for any council that wants a store. Last year, many stores had an excellent presence of Knights councils while others remained available so please contact me. Remember, going online to Schnucks to secure a store will not work in Missouri, you must contact me. Also, we have designed a new marketing tool for your council to help donors see who you are and what you are offering. It is a standing a-frame sign promoting the Drive for Developmental Disabilities and tootsie rolls. Your council can purchase this free standing sign for \$80 + tax. Remember, you can buy this sign using DDD funds. Just fill out the final form and put down the cost of the sign as expenses. I t

Please note that the sign has a QR code built into it. When a customer scans the code and makes a donation, YOUR council will receive the funds. Please give serious consideration to purchasing a sign for your council. By Now each council should have appointed a chairman for their drive, and sent in their chairman's Information to Victor Bender (vbender5308@hotmail.com) on the East side of the state and Ron Mathias (ron.mathias.kofc@gmail.com) on the West side. Councils should have started a conversation with their pastors about the October 10-12, or 17-19th weekend and handing out tootsie rolls after all the masses. Now it's time to decide on how many cases of tootsie rolls to order. Very important and the August 18th when all the orders need to be in by, is fast approaching.

To find many of the Community forms, go to www.MoKofC.org. Next, click on Community under the Programs tab. Once on the Community page, scroll and click on View our Community Forms. There is a lot of good information here, including the order form for the tootsie rolls. It is a fillable form, and at the bottom are the two emails that you will need to send the form to. While you are at the forms page look at the other forms. The continueToGive.com site is setup to help all of you get more money for your drives. Each site has a specific QR code just for your council. Print it off and use the QR code on all your information, letters and emails. This is the best way to collect money from those who do not carry cash. **Let's start to promote this event!**

It is also the time to start to get your orders in for the coats for kids, do not wait till it's cold, get your orders in as soon as possible. On the supreme website has all the information to get this program started. If you need more information contact Bill Lueckenhoff at wblueckenhoff@embarqmail.com Soccer challenge should also be on your mind, the kits are available at the supreme website, please get the kits as soon as possible. **Kits should be ordered by September 1st**, and the council contest should be scheduled in late September 13th – 21st. For more information, please contact Tim Vargenko at timvargenko@columbiaknights.org Gentlemen, thank you for all you do. Let's make this coming Fraternal year a great one!



OWN A PIECE OF
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS HISTORY
PSD LARRY PEARCE
IS NOW SELLING
HISTORIC PINS FROM PAST
SUPREME CONVENTIONS

CONTACT:
PSD Larry Pearce
816-478-3506
lpdppearce@comcast.net
Room C202,
111 NE Mock Ave,
Blue Springs, MO 64014



STATE FAMILY DIRECTOR JOHN CLARKE

We, the State Family Director and Chairmen, hope you are all having a blessed summer and are staying cool and dry. We enjoyed visiting with the District Deputies and the State Officers, fellow Directors and Chairmen in Columbia July 11-12. There was a lot of information given that will be passed on to the Councils at your local DD meeting. Please plan to attend your District Deputy meeting which is open to any Knight. Ladies Auxiliary members are also invited. These meetings are beneficial to learn about our faith and our family. Summer is a busy time for the Family Activities with games and athletic events. July 19, we had the State Golf Tournament at Mozingo Lake Golf Course in Maryville. On July 25-26, the State BBQ Competition took place in Perryville. Results are not available as I write this article, but the winners will be recognized in the September newsletter. On July 27, the Knights enjoyed good fellowship watching the Cardinals play the San Diego Padres.

Coming up in August is the State Horseshoe Tournament in Oran. Looking forward to seeing many of you at the competition. Not a shoe thrower, come on down anyway to see one of the largest gathering of Knights in the State, as close to 1500 competitors and their guests descend on the grounds of Council 4311. There will be food, drink and camaraderie to be had by all.

Through the work of our past and current Family Activities West Chairman we are going to have a second day at the Kansas City Royals this year. On Saturday Aug. 30 meet us at Kauffman Stadium by Gate 6 at four in the afternoon for a tailgate. Then attend the game at 6:10 and watch the Royals take on the Detroit Tigers. Tickets will be available on the State Website soon.

Something new I would like to do here is highlight activities different councils are having to promote the Family within their council or auxiliary. Please send me the activities you are doing to promote the family, and I will share some of them in future articles. Maybe another council or auxiliary would like to immortalize some of your activities with their own group.

Along the lines of promoting families, keep your eyes open for Knights and families of your council as well as Parish youth that help with the council and Parish. Recognize these individuals and families by nominating them as a Knight, Youth or Family of the Month. Show them off not just at the council level but send the applications to the State Council. The next applications are due September 15th and the forms are available on the State Website under Family and then family forms. Help us to recognize the families and individuals that support our councils and Parishes.



STATE LIFE DIRECTOR TONY JANSEN



Greetings Brother Knights and Your Families! Summer is almost over! Time continues to fly. You better enjoy what is left because the first frost is right around the corner.

The Missouri Senate used a rare procedural move called a PQ (Previous Question) to shut down a pro-abortion filibuster and advance HCS HJR 73 to the Secretary of State's office to be placed on the 2026 ballot. Unless Governor Kehoe calls a special session for an earlier vote, the voters of Missouri will have the ultimate voice in November of 2026 to determine if abortion on demand, all 9 months of pregnancy for any reason, stays in the Missouri Constitution. When Judge Zhang removed all safety regulations from Missouri Statutes in a lawsuit against the State of Missouri, women and babies became more in harm's way than ever before. These now-overturned safety regulations were put in place because Planned Parenthood in Missouri has a recorded history of the following, but not limited to these items: dirty abortion facilities, dried bloody equipment, rusty equipment, expired drugs and unqualified personnel. Without oversight, how long would it be before Planned Parenthood reverts back to these abhorrent safety hazards? And because of Amendment 3, our Missouri Constitution would prevent a woman from suing anyone associated with their abortion for any reason. We knew this would happen but could not get voters educated in time.

It is not too soon to begin to educate your councils on the new vote coming out next November. As more information becomes available, we will continue to educate all Missourians so they make the common-sense vote. Please be alert and vigilant. As more information becomes known, the Knights of Columbus will be here to keep you informed and protect the lives of our most vulnerable. Please continue to pray to make abortion unthinkable.

Go to <https://somo.org/> to learn how you can help Special Olympics in Missouri. There are dozens of ways to help out here in Missouri no matter what region you are in. One way we can all help is to ask our parish to offer a Mass for people with special needs. People with special needs resulting from physical, emotional, mental or cognitive conditions are all around us in society, at school, at work, and in our families. It can be challenging for these important members of our society to participate in Mass due to physical and social barriers – or even family member anxiety. Celebrating a Mass for People with Special Needs can be the first of many steps toward integrating them into regular weekly or even daily Mass – and more deeply into all of the sacraments and other aspects of parish life. Holding this Mass sends the message that all of God's children are welcome under the parish roof and that every person is an integral part of the parish family.

STATE FAITH DIRECTOR JOSH NEUWEG



With the great District Deputy Meeting in July, I hope all councils were able to attend their District Meeting and hear about all the programs that are so important to the growth of the Order.

Cor is a great way to grow men in your parish. Through the Cor meetings you can build up a group of men to be better men, husbands, and fathers. This will not only strengthen

families, it will strengthen parishes and communities. Cor programs aren't complicated and Jason Kehl can help you get a program started. His contact is jasonkehl@spirit-machinery.com

There are currently 2 Pilgrimages planned for the year. The first one will be on Aug. 9th at the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal in Perryville. The Pilgrimage starts with check in at 9:15am and concludes with mass at 12:10pm. The second one is on Oct. 5th at Mary Mother of the Church on the grounds of St. Patricks Church in Laurie. The Pilgrimage starts at 10:30am with registration and closing Benediction is at 2:00pm. Lunch will be \$15.00. Flyers for both of the Pilgrimages are on the state website mokofc.org for more information. Don't forget to reach out to John Myers to have him help promote your Council's Religious Appreciation events.

Thank you to all the Councils, Assemblies, Ladies Auxiliaries, and individuals that helped financially support the RIB and MRVF this past year. Your donations are a huge help the the Evangelization, and supporting Religious Vocations for all the Diocese of Missouri. Please continue to give to both of these funds.

Please Do Not Forget To Remember Our Fallen Knights and Ladies With a Sympathy Card

Contact: Michael Deamos
1904 Pine Street,
Higginsville, MO 64037
D/N 816-405-7418
mdeamos@hotmail.com



Please Pray for a Second Miracle toward Sainthood

For more information contact
Chairman Ed Cirar
guild@mokofc.org

2025 Horseshoe Tournament



August 15-16-17, 2025
Hosted by: Oran #4311
Location: Oran, MO
Contact: Randy Senciboy
Phone: 1-573-380-4477



Please use QR codes to receive information or watch the recently released in regards to KNIGHT'S LEGACY Program.



Missouri State Council
Knights of Columbus
cordially invites you
to the



STATE KNIGHT'S PILGRIMAGE
National Shrine of
Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal
Saturday, August 9th, 2025
1805 West Saint Joseph Street – Perryville, MO

Registration 9:15am: Coffee and Donuts!!
10:00 am: ACTIVITIES BEGIN!
• Tour of Shrine (may be in 2 groups)
• Confessions between group tours available
• OUTDOOR ROSARY WALK
12:10pm MASS (Free Will offering for Campus)
Lunch is still pending...more information to follow.

*The Pilgrimage will include 1st Degree relics of the Last Supper table and Wood of the Cross for those who wish to have their religious items become 3rd degree relics.
This Shrine has been designated as a sight for the Jubilee Year of Hope! This is an excellent time to **receive Plenary Indulgences! After Mass and lunch, there will be time for you to revisit the Shrine and Gift Shop on your own. For more information on the site, please visit www.amm.org.

All Knights and their families/friends are welcome! **Please send RSVP to:** Michael Calliotte, mcalliotte@aol.com or call 417-818-5555 for questions!