



Knights of Columbus Newsletter

Charity ~ Unity ~ Fraternity ~ Patriotism



Official Newsletter of the Knights of Columbus of Missouri

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“Honoring Faith, Serving Community”

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STATE MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR BRIAN ZIEGLER

Greetings Brothers

The Advent season is upon us and soon will be Christmas. While everyone is worried about what gift to get and how much money we spend on each other to show our love I am presenting something different.

I have links to [Christmas invite cards](#) and [Lenten invite cards](#) to join the Knights and the cost is free. What better gift to give a fellow Catholic male than a free membership to join the Knights Simply hand them this card and personally invite them. Brothers we have had an OK year in getting members to join our order but there are so many more that we have not invited. Our order is more important now than ever as the church is under attack for our beliefs and values. And what Catholic male does not want to become a better Catholic? Doesn't want to help children with developmental disabilities or Special Olympic athletes? If our order does not grow then we can not support our programs and our charities. If our order does not grow then who will be there to support our priests and bishops?

From my family to yours I want to wish you a very blessed Christmas season

Vivat Jesus!

Brian

STATE PROGRAM DIRECTOR CHUCK PAQUETTE

Brothers, as the Church calendar turns to Advent, a season of **Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love**, our commitment to the Supreme Council's *Faith in Action* program model takes on a special, deeper significance. Advent is not just a countdown to Christmas; it is a time of focused spiritual preparation and selfless service. It is the perfect opportunity to align our Supreme programs with the spiritual and charitable calling of this holy season. **Making our Programs 'Advent-Ready'** I encourage every Council to review your upcoming plans through an Advent lens. Are we just *doing* programs, or are we intentionally using them to prepare hearts for Christ?

- **Faith:** Programs like the **Cor** initiative or simply hosting an **Advent Reflection/Holy Hour** for families connect directly to the contemplative nature of the season.

- **Family:** The **Keep Christ in Christmas** poster contest and creche blessings are essential. Make them a high-visibility family event that counters the secular rush. Consider a "Reverse Advent Calendar" drive, collecting one non-perishable item each day to donate to a local food pantry.

- **Community:** Now is the time for charity. Focus your **Helping Hands** efforts on local families in need or nursing home visits. This tangible work of giving is the practical application of Advent's themes of love and peace.

- **Life:** Promote a renewed commitment to our pro-life mission, praying for the dignity of all human life.

The Call to Action Let us make our programs truly shine by tying them to the central themes of Advent. This intentional focus will not only benefit our communities but also strengthen the spiritual lives of our members and their families. I pray for a fruitful and spiritually enriching Advent season for all our brothers and their families.

Vivat Jesus!

Chuck Paquette



STATE COMMUNITY DIRECTOR JOHN "ROCKY" GAMBON

I know that I have spoken often of the Drive for Developmental Disabilities or Tootsie Roll Drive in these writeups. Knowing all the wonderful organizations councils donate to, not to mention the Knights of Columbus Developmental Center at Cardinal Glennon can be energizing. Also, seeing the individual totals put forth by the councils shows a tremendous amount of effort being applied and all I can say is thank you. As of this writing, we have nearly \$210,000. Definitely a far cry from our goal of \$700,000 but it is a start and for that, I want to say thank you.

The Global Wheelchair Mission provides aid to those who lack the freedom of mobility in our communities and around the world. Whether councils are presenting wheelchairs to local veterans and neighbors in need or donating funds to benefit those abroad, mobility brings with it independence and dignity. Obtained at discounted prices, these wheelchairs change the lives of their recipients. Working with the Global Wheelchair Mission is a perfect opportunity to put your faith into action and involve the entire community in the rewarding charitable work done by your council. Please make your donations early this year. Charles Leanu has worked hard for this program and will be happy to answer any questions you may have. Cmlenau12@spectrum.net.

Someone asked me what our Ladies Auxiliary might do to help out the community and I mentioned the need to help with our annual state Essay Contest. If your council hasn't done this, then I strongly suggest you move on this immediately. This year's topic, *Given the fact that Pope Leo XIV was born and raised in the United States, how do you think that can inspire young men and women on our country to consider the priesthood and religious life?* Please reach out to area PSR and Catholic schools especially those in grades 6 through 8. Participation this year is quite low but the time to take part is not yet over. Remember, this topic is not put forth by the Supreme office so please do not send your winners to New Haven. For more information, contact Bill Lueckenhoff at bill.lueckenhoff@gmail.com.

I'm hearing there are still councils who have not ordered coats for a Coats for Kids drive. If you have not ordered Coats for kids yet, it is time! This program has donated over a half a million coats to kids that need them. These coats come in Boys and Girls sizes for Youth, teen and lightweight. Last year supreme ran out of coats so I want to encourage all councils/assemblies/chapters to get their orders in as soon as possible, don't wait! Questions, please contact Bill Lueckenhoff at bill.lueckenhoff@gmail.com.

Councils should be planning their Basketball Free Throw Contest that starts in January 2026, but we want councils to go to the supreme council website and order the Free Throw Kit. Start talking to schools, boy scouts, and other groups to gain participation. Find the gym and reserve the gym for your competition. Age group 9-14 with the council level being completed in the month of January. District Deputies, find the councils in your area doing the contest and set a date between February 1st to the 15th to hold the district contest. The regional contest will be from the February 16th to the 29th. It is important for District Deputies to also, look at hosting a regional, get together with other District Deputies in your region and get this planned and set before the contest starts. For questions Tim Vargenko at timvargenko@columbiaknights.org or reach out to me, John "Rocky" Gambon at jgambon3645@gmail.com.

If you find yourself at a Knights function in Jefferson City, please make the time to stop by Helias Council 1054 and see the work done by State Council Historian Tony Dohmann. He is one of many unsung heroes of the state. With limited resources and sheer determination, he has developed an impressive display of items showing the history of the Knights here in Missouri. Brother Dohmann can be contacted at tonyedohmann@gmail.com.

Finally, I want to remind everyone of our state website, www.MoKofC.org Brother Chris Nelms and State Program Director Chuck Paquette have worked incredibly hard to make this sight your one-stop go to source for information on upcoming events both social and degree driven. Additionally, I hope and pray that you take the time to look at your digital Mariner. Stay tuned.



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Knights of Columbus
Missouri State Council



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



STATE FAMILY DIRECTOR JOHN CLARKE

The Family Activities group wishes everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! May you find plenty of time to enjoy the company of your loved ones and create wonderful memories together this Christmas Season!

Events to look forward to in the first few months of 2026 include a Cornhole Tournament and Hockey games. January 30-31, the State Cornhole Tournament will take place in Lee’s Summit Mo at Holy Spirit Church. We will have a public tournament open to anyone on Friday with partners selected by random draw. The State tournament will take place on Saturday and is limited to Knights and their families. This is a great chance to get out and meet other Knights from around the state. There will be good food and fellowship. All the proceeds from this event support Special Olympics of Missouri. Signups are available on the State Website.

On March 7, the Kansas City Mavericks will be taking on the Tahoe Knight Monsters from Lake Tahoe. This is a Saturday game with tailgating for a few hours before in the parking lot. Please see the State Website for more information or for order/entry forms for any of the Family events.

We kindly remind you that we need more nominations for Knight, Family, and Youth of the Month. Please take the time to acknowledge the active members in your Councils and Parishes. Don’t miss your chance to nominate a deserving member. Applications can be found on the State Website, and the next deadline is January 15th.

And a friendly reminder that scholarship applications need to be postmarked by February 20, 2026. While this may seem far off, those deadlines can come up quicker than expected.



STATE LIFE DIRECTOR TONY JANSEN

Greetings Brother Knights and Your Families!

Well, ready or not, it is time for the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! What a beautiful time of the year. Again, I want to remind all Brother Knights, if your council has not done so, please reach out to your pastor on how the Knights can help educate members of your community as to the evils of the new Amendment 3 for November 2026. Make sure he knows we will support him in any way needed. It is not too early to start planning and fundraising to protect the preborn. History will judge us as to how hard we fight to protect the preborn, women’s safety, and parental rights.

Knights worldwide have raised over \$1.6 million for Pregnancy Resource Centers this fraternal year! We are on track to reach our goal of \$5 million for FY 25-26. Keep up the good work and encourage your councils to not only support their local pregnancy centers and maternity homes but also apply for the ASAP grant as soon as possible to get the money from Supreme to the centers. As always, resources can be found at kofc.org/asap and councils can order KofC-branded baby bottles from Supplies Online to use for baby bottle drives. All of these activities can be used as marketing events to educate people on the need to vote yes on Amendment 3.

As the weather cools down, many Special Olympics organizations are transitioning to indoor sports or cold weather fundraisers like the polar plunge. Now is the time to plan for these activities and encourage councils to report their participation in Special Olympics programs through the online Fraternal Programs Report Form (#10784). All participation taking place in calendar year 2025 must be reported through the online form by January 31st, 2026, to be considered in annual jurisdictional rankings. Rankings will be determined, and checks will be issued, by April 2026. Contact your local Special Olympics organization to get involved! If you would like to get involved, give Special Olympics Chairman Gary Beussink a call.

The schedule for the National March for Life on January 23, 2026 in Washington, D.C. is now available. Go to marchforlife.org for a brochure on preparing for a March for Life and for information on how to organize attendance the march. In addition, Supreme is seeking volunteers to help distribute signs for the March for Life on that day from 9am - 12pm. Any amount of time you can volunteer is welcome! Participants will receive free K of C apparel. Go to kofc.org to sign up. Also, please mark your calendars for the Midwest March for Life on April 30, 2026 in Jefferson City. Go to midwestmarchforlife.com for more information and to get registered.

On behalf of my family and me, I want to wish everyone a very Blessed Advent Season, a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year! Vivat Jesus!



STATE FAITH DIRECTOR JOSH NEUWEG

Brothers, as we enter the Advent season let us remember not only to prepare ourselves for the celebration of the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ, but let us also take care of those who are in the formation of their calling. I know most councils support a seminarian or more and the Advent season is a great time to reach out to your sponsored seminarians and see how they’re doing. A simple phone call, email, or letter of encouragement will go a long way for them. It’s also a good time to send them some financial support for some possible unexpected expenses they may have when making plans to come back to their family for a brief time. This is our responsibility as Knights and to make sure we are doing what is expected for the RSVP refund program from Supreme.

As you spend time in prayer either at Mass, home, or Adoration don’t forget to add prayers for the Canonization of our founder Blessed Micheal J. McGivney. If you aren’t a member of the McGivney Guild I ask why not. It is easy and it’s free. Just go to fathermcgivney.org and scroll to the bottom of the web page and click the join guild button to sign up. You will receive a quarterly newsletter emailed to you. You can also ask for prayer requests through the website for Father McGivney’s intercession.



**Merry Christmas To All Brother Knights,
Ladies And Families**

**Pray Three Hail Marys
To End Abortion**

**Make Plans
To Support
Roses For Life
January 3-4, 2026**



**Please Pray
for a
Second Miracle
toward**

For more information
contact
Chairman
Tom Broadbent
guild@mokofc.org

**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

Visit Knights of Columbus
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Fr. Helias Council #1054
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Contact: Tony Dohmen,
(573) 635-1898
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