



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”

JANUARY 2026

STATE PROGRAM DIRECTOR CHUCK PAQUETTE

The Knights of Columbus Supreme Council has introduced several pivotal programs and strategic initiatives throughout 2025 designed to deepen the faith of Catholic men and expand the Order's charitable reach. **The “Cor” Initiative: Strengthening Men's Faith** The most significant new development is



the **Cor** initiative (Latin for “heart”), which has seen a 68% growth in the 2024–2025 fraternal year.

- **Purpose:** To form missionary disciples through prayer, formation, and fraternity.
- **Open to All:** Unlike traditional council meetings, Cor is open to **all men of the parish**, not just Knights, serving as a gateway for faith engagement.
- **Focus:** Groups utilize resources like the **Men of the Word** Bible study and the **Breach** video series to discuss authentic masculinity and spiritual life.

Sacred Heart Pilgrim Icon Program Launched in early 2025, this new Pilgrim Icon Program centers on devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

- **Alignment:** The program coincides with Pope Francis' encyclical *Dilexit Nos*, focusing on the Sacred Heart as a unifying center in a divided world.
- **Activity:** Over 5,000 prayer services have already been held, involving approximately 500,000 participants.

Pro-Life & Family Initiatives The Supreme Council continues to emphasize “Mothers and Children First” through expanded support programs:

- **ASAP (Aid and Support After Pregnancy):** This initiative provides financial incentives for councils; for every \$500 donated to pregnancy resource centers, Supreme provides an additional \$100.
- **Ultrasound Milestone:** The Order has now reached a milestone of **2,000 donated ultrasound machines** to help mothers choose life.

Growth & Operational Priorities

- **“Go for Two”:** A current membership challenge urging every Knight to recruit two new members, which has already contributed to a 25% increase in online applications following the 143rd Supreme Convention.

What great programs to get councils involved. Please consider supporting these programs and initiatives, and help continue to make them successful.

STATE COMMUNITY DIRECTOR JOHN “ROCKY” GAMBON

May I begin by wishing all of have a Happy and Blessed Christmas, Final Report Forms for awards and Turn-Around Fund Requests, are still coming in for the 53rd annual **Drive for Developmental Disabilities**. May I begin by saying Wow! You have really stepped up this year! As of this writing, councils have sent in approximately \$558,000 this year. At this time last year, we were approaching the \$500,000 mark. Remember our goal is \$700,000 by June 30th. We can make this happen. At a recent meeting of the District Deputies, I was asked if their council could host a fundraising event for the Knights of Columbus Center at Cardinal Glennon even though they had turned in their DD Drive funds and the answer is a resounding Yes! Simply use the forms from the Tootsie Roll drive and enter any funds in the Council column and send it in. That's all it takes.



As for councils who have not turned in their funds, please act to make sure that your reports are sent in as soon as possible. There are still about 65 councils that have not sent in any reporting. Thank you to all the Councils and families who participated in supporting the Knights of Columbus Developmental Center and your local charities supporting the developmentally disabled. Should you choose to do a separate fundraiser this spring, please let me know as I will do everything I can to attend.

Appeal letters have gone out for donations to Agape House and American Wheelchair Mission. Chairman Charles Lenau (cmalenau12@spectrum.net) has done a great job so far and is working to redistribute chairs so that all areas are covered. Right now, there is a concerted effort to get wheelchairs to the Jefferson City area as the need has been bigger than the supply. Please consider donating to these worthy causes. As if you haven't noticed recently, it's cold outside! Missouri Knights are making sure that NO child goes without a coat! The coats for Kids drive this year has been nothing but outstanding. Missouri Knights have given over 495 cases of coats to children in need. “Well done Missouri Knights”. We need to make sure that every child has a coat, through our **Coats for Kids** drive. Each Council should consider this as a must do program, nothing makes a child smile than a new coat. Don't be afraid to pool your efforts with area councils. More hands means more coats and more success towards this worthy cause. There is little time to go before the January 31 deadline for our **Essay Contest**. Councils can submit one winner from their Council contest for each of 6th, 7th, and 8th grade, to Chairman Bill Lueckenhoff. Students in these grades are asked to write 350 – 500 words on our theme this year, **“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 in our country to consider the priesthood and religious life?”**. With our decreasing number of seminarians, this topic should be on the lips of everyone, Kids will learn so much by participating in this contest. Local councils should be collecting and voting on their council winners, then have them sent to Chairman Bill Lueckenhoff either by mail (program manual has address) or by email bill.lueckenhoff@gmail.com.

Basketball Free throw contest should be underway in councils that are participating. Please get these local contests done, so the kids will be ready to start the district contest which should start February 1st through the 15th with the regionals starting February 16th through the 29th with the State contest in March 8th Starting at noon at Fr. Tolton Catholic High School in Columbia. Questions on this event, please contact Tim Vargesco at timvargesco@columbiaknights.org

STATE MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR BRIAN ZIEGLER

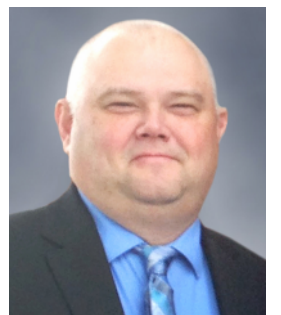
Happy New Year With the start of a new year comes the new years resolutions and thoughts of how to improve ourselves and now I am going to add how to improve our Church and our order.

I want to challenge each of you to take the power of 3 challenge and that is I challenge you to ask 3 Catholic men to join our order a minimum of 3 times.

New members are vital to our order so we can continue to grow and to be there to support our Priests and to support our many charities. Without new members our order will dwindle and so will the support of our Priests and our many charities such as Special Olympics and The Developmental center at Cardinal Glennon.

Our order is needed now more than ever as our Catholic Church, Faith, Priests are under attack more than ever. The amount of patients needed to be seen at the Developmental center is at one of the highest levels and the amount of athletes utilizing the Special Olympic train for life center has taken off.

Imagine if only half of the 44,000 Knights in Missouri were able to add 1 new brother to our order the difference we as an organization could make!



2026 Horseshoe Tournament



August : 14-15 & 16, 2026
Hosted by : Fr. Seisl Council #1121
Location : Washington, MO
Contact : Kyle Mantle
Phone : 636-221-1313

2026 Golf Tournament



July 18, 2026
Hosted by : St. Jerome Council #1572
Location : Ozark Ridge golf course Poplar Bluff, MO
Contact : James Deken
1-573-778-6682



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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

I hope everyone had a Blessed Advent, a great start to the Christmas Season, and a safe New Year. As we start this new calendar year I would like to thank all those that reported the Rosaries that were said in the month of October. We finished the month with 18,746 Rosaries said for the month. Although we didn't reach the lofty goal that I set of 30,000, every rosary said brings people closer to the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary. With Mary praying with us there's nothing that we can't overcome.

A reminder that the Monsignor Mancuso Catholic Education Grant Application is posted on the state website, mokofo.org. The link is on the front page under upcoming events. Please pass this along to your PSR, OCIA, Catholic School Principals, and Religious Education Directors. The applications are due by March 1st, have to be filled out by the school not the council. All applications are to be submitted online only.

A great New Year's Resolution would be to start a Cor program if your council doesn't have one already. Building better men, husbands, and fathers is what Cor does. It's a perfect way to help the health of not only the man, but also his entire family, Church, and community. If you have any questions or need help starting just reach out to Jason Kehl, jaosnkehl@spirit-machinery.com. Jason has ideas and resources to help you out.



Pray Three Hail Marys
To End Abortion



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



STATE KNIGHTS' PILGRIMAGE
LOOK FOR FUTURE INFORMATION REGARDING
THE UPCOMING PILGRIMAGE
ON THE GROUNDS OF THE BLACK MADONNA
SHRINE DEDICATED TO THE QUEEN OF PEACE
AND MERCY.
BLACK MADONNA SHRINE
100 ST. JOSEPH HILL ROAD
PACIFIC, MO 63069
STATE PILGRIMAGE CHAIRMAN JOHN MYERS
573-883-3838
JMYERS@LDD.NET

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
Historical Museum
Fr. Helias Council #1054
1822 Tanner Bridge Rd.,
Jefferson City, MO
Contact: Tony Dohmen,
(573) 635-1898
tonyedohmen@gmail.com

