



Knights of Columbus Newsletter



Charity ~ Unity ~ Fraternity ~ Patriotism

Official Newsletter of the Knights of Columbus of Missouri

VOLUME 12, NO 8

“Honoring Faith, Serving Community”

FEBRUARY 2026

STATE PROGRAM DIRECTOR CHUCK PAQUETTE

Missouri Knights of Columbus:

Recognizing Excellence in Service

As we move through the 2025–2026 fraternal year, it is time to recognize the outstanding work performed by our local councils. The **Service Program Awards** and the **Blessed Michael McGivney Award** are our primary ways to honor the charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism displayed across Missouri.



Service Program Awards Form #STSP

These awards recognize excellence in the four Faith in Action categories: **Faith, Family, Community, and Life**. Councils are encouraged to submit their most impactful programs for consideration.

Examples of Winning Programs from State: you never know what will win, so send in your Service program.

Faith: Eucharistic Pilgrimage: St. Thomas Aquinas Council 15294 in Cape Girardeau spearheaded a Eucharistic pilgrimage, to promote devotion to the Blessed Sacrament.

Family: Meet them at the Well: Pope John XXII 6018, with assistance from their Church created a program that addresses when family members leave the Church and provides strategies for how to bring them home to the Church.

Community: Crucifixes and Cross's for Christian Veterans: Our Lady of the Cove, council 7588 Made cross's and had them handed out to Christian Veterans in the VA hospitals in Southern Missouri that did not have a symbol of their Christian beliefs.

Life: Ultrasound & Baby Boutique: Mary, Mother of the Church council 10381, converted a two car garage, into a boutique, freeing up space in the pregnancy center.

Blessed Michael McGivney Award #SBMMA This prestigious award—the highest honor for a chaplain—recognizes a priest whose zeal and service mirror those of our founder, Blessed Michael McGivney. The ideal nominee is a spiritual father who actively guides council members and exemplifies priestly charity.

Important Submission Details

To ensure your council and chaplain are considered, all nomination forms must be submitted by the state deadline.

Due Date: March 31, 2026.

Submit To: State Program Director Chuck Paquette.

Email: chuck@shopprobe.com. You can find the **necessary forms** on the Supreme site at <http://kofc.org>, Select **Resources** then **Forms** finally choose **Council**.



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Missouri State Council

2026 Horseshoe Tournament

August : 14-15 & 16, 2026

Hosted by :Fr. Seisl Council #1121

Location : Washington, MO

Contact : Kyle Mantle

Phone : 636-221-1313



STATE COMMUNITY DIRECTOR JOHN “ROCKY” GAMBON

Amazing, Amazing, Amazing! That is the only I can describe the hard work and determination of the Knights of Columbus councils here in Missouri when it comes to the Drive for Developmental Disabilities. As of this writing, we have grossed \$621,918 towards our goal of \$700,000! Considering that last year, our total by June 30th was \$634,560, this amount is Amazing! Congratulations to all councils who have worked so hard to make this a success! Job well done!



Now if your council has not turned in your report with the funds, please do so, our goal is to have all the reporting in by end of March. There are about 41 councils that have not sent in their report or money for the Drive for Persons with Developmental Disabilities. It is very important that we get these funds in as soon as possible, so we can get the turnaround funds out and money to the programs around Missouri that really need the funds.

The Basketball Free Throw across Missouri is under way, by now all the council contests should be done along with most of the district free throw contest. Regionals are set to run February 2nd – March 2nd, with the State being held on March 8th at Fr. Tolton High School located at 3351 E Gans Rd, Columbia, MO 65201. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to Chairman Tim Vargesko at timvargesko@columbiaknights.org.

Life Services chairman, Charles Lenau sent out an appeal letter for the Wheelchair Mission. This will enable us to continue to deliver wheelchairs for the state of Missouri and beyond. Again, thank you Missouri Knights. Donations keep coming in for the Agape House, this program will help visiting families of incarcerated individuals a place to stay. Agape house translated means “Christian Love” treating their guest with respect, love and caring.

Disaster Preparedness program is on the Supreme website. I still recall last year's terrible fires in California. Because of that, we need to be prepared especially considering that tornado season will be upon us in a few months. Being prepared for such a disaster, can help a community when natural disasters occur. This program engages councils to approach emergency situations by being ready in times of disasters. From the supreme website it reads: “As community leaders, Knights of Columbus will ensure that their members, families and parish communities are prepared through a campaign that promotes planning and education.” Helping others when time are hard is what Knights of Columbus have been doing since it started.

Finally, please find the time to check out our newly updated state website, www.MoKofC.org. The site is still in transition but the new version will allow you to see upcoming events, information from various programs including the forms to make those happen. This site will soon take the place of the printed Mariner which has but one remaining publication. The Mariner is an expensive form of print and the new website will be able to save the state a considerable amount of money so please take the time to check out our new website.

STATE MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR BRIAN ZIEGLER

Greetings Brothers

January has come and went. How many men did you invite to join our order? With the arrival of February brings two great opportunities for you to invite men to join our order so that we may not only continue to support our charities and support our priests but that we may be stronger in doing it.



The 1st event everyone knows is a great invitation opportunity and that is the super bowl. Even thought there is no local team involved there will still be Super Bowl parties held and what better place to invite men to join our order? Or better yet have your council host a super bowl watch party and have the Why Join Us information laid out for them to use?

The 2nd event most don't consider or think of as an invite day is Valentines Day weekend? That weekend we show our love for our spouses, our family so why not use it as a weekend to show our love for our Church and our priest by again inviting men to join our order to strengthen our order to help support our church and priests? Brothers we have a duty and responsibility to invite all Catholic men 18 and over to join our order.

Membership is not about numbers but is about the strength and the future those numbers provide.

To get a man his first year free use the link and code below

www.kofc.org/

joinus PROMO code

BLESSEDMCGIVNEY

Vivat Jesus

STATE FAMILY DIRECTOR JOHN CLARKE

As we start a new year, I want to remind all one last time about scholarship deadlines. There are a total of 11 scholarships offered through the State Council. The scholarship applications must be postmarked or emailed to Paul O'Brien by Midnight February 20. Please make sure the applications have been submitted.



March 7-8 is the State Bowling Tournament hosted by O'Fallon Knights of Columbus. There are three separate events in the tournament: singles, doubles and team competitions. All competitions will be held at O'Fallon Bowl in O'Fallon, MO. Single and Doubles will be held on Saturday and Team Competition will be on Sunday. The cost is \$20 per event per member, \$100 for a 5-person team. Please see the State website for more information and entry forms.

Saturday, March 7, is the Knights Night at the Kansas City Mavericks Hockey Game. Tailgating starts at 4:00 pm and the game starts at 6:05. This is a great time to meet other Knights and their families. Council 13908 will be cooking hot dogs and brats to serve with chips and cookies or brownies. The tailgate is included in the \$42 ticket cost. You just need to bring any beverages you would like. You can purchase tickets on the state website by selecting Events. You will then see the event details and a link to pay by card. Tickets are still available the old-fashioned way by sending a check and order form to Jeff DeMarco.

Do not forget to honor your Knights, Ladies, Youth and Families by nominating them each Month. Please take the time to acknowledge the active participants in your councils, parishes and communities. Applications can be found on the State Website, and the next deadline is March 15th.

I would like to take this opportunity to mention a couple of Supreme Family Programs of Family Fully Alive and Family Prayer Nights that support and grow the faith of families and the church.

The Family Fully Alive monthly devotions offer practical ways for Knights to nurture holy and loving families within the Church. The program encourages families to welcome God into their homes, shaping each household as a “domestic church.” Using the Family Fully Alive Booklet (#10162) as a guide, families engage with monthly themes, reflections, meditations, and group projects. Families can choose to complete each month’s theme together at home or join with other families for group activities, with most sessions designed to fit easily into a regular family schedule. Through these shared experiences, families can pray, reflect, and serve as a unit, deepening their faith and connection with one another. In addition to deepening faith, participating in the Family Fully Alive program helps families strengthen their bonds and fosters a sense of community among parish members. Each family can embark on this journey at their own pace, creating meaningful experiences together throughout the year. Councils are encouraged to order the Family Fully Alive booklets and invite families to begin their journey toward deeper faith, unity, and community by joining this program today.

Family Prayer Nights strengthen the bonds within our parishes and help build faith-filled families. Catholics sometimes struggle with the reality that they do not have the opportunity to socialize and/or pray with other faith-filled Catholic families. Family Prayer Night is an opportunity for children to be exposed to regular people living their faith in a casual setting. The idea is for council members, their families and the whole parish community to come together once a month for evening prayer, dinner and fellowship. Multiple groups can be formed, and families are encouraged to rotate between these groups. For additional information visit kofc.org/prayernight.

STATE FAITH DIRECTOR JOSH NEUWEG

The Monsignor Mancuso Catholic Education Grant application is up and ready on the State Website mokofc.org. Please share this with your Parishes PSR, Schools, and Religious Education Directors. All applications have to be filled out using the online application only. The deadline to apply is March 1st 2026. Just click on the Programs tab at the top of the site, choose Faith, on the right-hand side click on Catholic Education Grant Program. There the program outline can be viewed and the link for the application is at the bottom of the program outline.



We also need to have financial support for our Religious Information Bureau and Missouri Religious Vocations Fund. RIB helps with evangelization of our Catholic Faith. The dioceses of Missouri use the funds provided to provide programs that help the large majority of their parishioners. The funds from the MRF go to help in promoting religious vocations throughout the State. Diocese use these funds to promote and help those discerning their calling to religious life and Priests that we so desperately need.

Help build better men, husbands, and fathers by starting a Cor program in your council. Jason Kehl can help you get one started. He has lots of resources that he can direct you to that will make it very easy to start a Cor program. By building the relationships that can be formed in the Cor program you can also strengthen your council. You may even be able to have men join your council simply because of the bonds they forge in your Cor program.



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



STATE LIFE DIRECTOR TONY JANSEN

Greetings Brother Knights and Your Families!



The adage “Time flies when you are having fun!” seems to be appropriate this month! Seems like last time I wrote I was talking about the Advent and Christmas seasons and now here we are with Lent coming around the corner. I encourage all you Brothers to make sure to get your families prepared. What a beautiful time of the year!

Again, I want to remind all councils to challenge yourselves to support Missouri Special Olympics “Back Nine” challenge. The Back Nine will be a new sports complex behind the Training for Life Campus—including pickleball courts, softball/kickball field, plaza and walking paths, and the surrounding multi-use activity areas. It will be a unified, inclusive space for training, competition, and community recreation. We have committed ourselves to providing a pavilion that will provide shade, restrooms, concessions and much-needed storage. We are asking all councils to prayerfully challenge yourselves to support the project. Individuals can also support this project. You can access the forms in the December Mariner at the following link: 109269 Pg 01 DEC 2025-merged_compr-essed.pdf.



Again, I want to remind everyone to please mark your calendars for the Midwest March for Life on April 30, 2026 in Jefferson City. If you have never been, it will be a jaw-dropping experience. We want to have a huge Knights presents to show our support and love for Life! As usual they will have many inspirational speakers: Reagan Barklage, National Field Director for Students for Life of America, Mayra Rodriguez, Pro-Life Advocate, Speaker, and Whistleblower against abortion giant Planned Parenthood, and Linda Friere, Senior Regional Programs Manager for Sidewalk Advocates for Life. Go to midwestmarchforlife.com for more information and to get registered. I am still asking all councils to reach out to your local pro-life groups to see how your council can help pass Amendment 3 in 2026. One Pro-Life coalition the state council is working with is *Her Health, Her Future*. They are a coalition of pro-life organizations across the state with national influence and support. This coalition was started by Brother Knight Governor Mike Kehoe and his wife Claudia. They are a statewide coalition of pro-life families, individuals, community leaders, and organizations committed to protecting women’s health, safeguarding our children, and restoring protections for the unborn. They are holding monthly meetings with the goal of a unified fight against the abortion industry. You can learn more at herhealthherfuture.org.

Essentially, *Her Health, Her Future* is working to restore reasonable protections for women, children, and families. These protections were removed with the passage of Amendment 3 in 2024. Missouri legislature lost the ability to set meaningful safeguards for the abortion industry. The **Proposed 2026 Amendment 3** restores these protections by:

- Severely limiting the number of abortions in the state
- Requiring abortion clinics to meet high standards for safety and cleanliness
- Ensuring parental or judicial consent for minors
- Prohibiting gender-altering procedures for minors
- Severely limiting public funding for abortion services

As you can see, Life Programs have our work cut out this year. Please, please get involved anyway you can. Financial support is always great but we can always use prayers also for the Special Olympians and the babies born and preborn. Vivat Jesus!