



Knights of Columbus MARINER



Official Publication of the Knights of Columbus of Missouri

VOLUME 95, NO 4

"Honoring Faith, Serving Community!"

JUNE 2026

State Secretary Lucas Volkman Elected State Deputy During 2026 Convention

Brian Ziegler Elected State Secretary; Ron Mathias Elected State Warden; Ennis Hinkebein Elected Columbian Charities Delegate At Large; John Heithaus Advocate; Matt Gray Treasurer Re-elected

Starting off the 125th year of our beloved organization with the April gathering of the Missouri Knights of Columbus. The planning and preparation for the 2026 convention did not disappoint. With the various displays from our "associate" organizations, Missouri Knights tables filled with the great works of our Order. Over the weekend the Knights and Auxiliary showed who we have been, who we are and who we will be in the moving forward.

Lucas Volkman, a member of Council #14414 in Columbia, MO was chosen during the 2026 gathering as the State Deputy-elect to lead the order during the 125th year of our Order.

Lucas joined the Knights of Columbus in 2000, at the University of Illinois, quickly rising to Grand Knight of Council #2782. During his time in Champaign, the Illini Council went from a small group of men to winning the Supreme Outstanding College Council Award, as the best college Council in the Order. After moving to Missouri for graduate school in 2004, Lucas served three terms as Grand Knight of Newman Center Council #7231, and was later elected Faithful Navigator of Msgr. Flood Assembly #583 in Columbia.

During 2008, Lucas transitioned into state-level leadership as a District Deputy, being appointed first by SD Greg Stratman and later by SD John Appelbaum. At that time, Lucas began his service as Conferring Officer of the old 3rd degree, helping to advance over 1500 members to full Knighthood. In 2012, SD Brad Grill appointed Lucas the Columbian Squires and Columbus Girls Chairman, and later the Leadership Academy Chairman, which SD Keith Milson renewed for two more years. Starting in 2016, Lucas was elevated to his Directorship as Youth Director by SD Joe Rosenthal. Two years later, SD Bob Hawkins named Lucas the Faith Director. In 2020, SD Mike Grudzinski gave Lucas the role of Program Director, where he helped State Council navigate the Covid pandemic.

SD Doug Kissinger appointed Lucas as Membership Director in 2022. Lucas helped lead the Missouri Knights make its membership goal for both years, and Missouri was awarded the prestigious Circle of Honor award for the first time since 2009. In 2024

the membership elected Lucas as State Secretary and reelected him to that role 2025.

Outside of his fraternal service, Dr. Volkman earned his Ph.D. from the University of Missouri in 2012. He is a Professor of History at Moberly Area Community College; having been named a distinguished educator earlier this spring. Lucas is a published author of several works, most notably the book *Houses Divided: Evangelical Schisms and the Crisis of the Union in Missouri*, which explores religious history during the Civil War era. He is working on another book about the modernist crisis in the early twentieth century American Catholic Church.

Lucas and his wife Crissy are active members of Sacred Heart Church in Columbia. Chrissy and Lucas are the proud parents of son Joseph.

Editors note: We excerpt portions of SD Michael Auchly's report to the 2026 confab. Please remember under SD Auchly's guidance, your hardwork has allowed the Missouri Knights of Columbus to grow to (posted during the convention) to 44,659. Due to limited space we can not list all of the past years accomplishments. But your Council's hard work has reached record levels with our core programs

SD Michael Auchly: It is an honor and a privilege to welcome you to this historic 125th meeting of the Missouri State Council of the Knights of Columbus. Two years ago I stood at this podium proud and humbled after having been elected to the Office of State Deputy of the Missouri Knights of Columbus. I now return to the podium even prouder and more humbled. The efforts and accomplishments of the State Officers, Directors, Chairmen, District Deputies, Grand Knights and Councils throughout the entire State of Missouri continue to amaze me as we continue to carry out the dream of Blessed Fr. McGivney and I am humbled by the tremendous opportunity to have served this great jurisdiction as State Deputy for the past two years.

I want to first thank our State Chaplain Fr. Greg Oligschlaeger for the spiritual guidance he has given us at our state meetings through the year. Fr. Greg along with the help of Deacon Luke have been amazing and continue to help us grow spiritually and I can't thank them enough.

Our Motto is *Honoring Faith, Serving Community*. The Missouri Knights of Columbus have a rich tradition of service to our Church and to our communities. Our charitable programs have affected the lives of millions of people. During this past year we have continued that tradition and have laid the foundation for our Order to remain vibrant and relevant for many years to come.

The programs we have are only a part of the large number of programs which show the vitality of the Knights of Columbus in Missouri. But the true story of what we have accomplished is told in the individual Councils across the State. It is told by the countless persons that are helped through your charitable programs and fundraisers. The programs and activities that your Councils participate in are affecting the lives of people in our Church and in our Communities and I thank you for your dedication and commitment to the ideals of Blessed Fr. McGivney.

It is hard to believe that as I stand here today my second term as your State Deputy has allmost come to a close. It is truly been an honor to serve as your State Deputy for the past two years and I am proud to be a Missouri Knight of Columbus. As always, I remind you to celebrate everything!



State Secretary
Brian Ziegler



CC Delegate At
Large Ennis
Hinkebein



Warden
Ron Mathias

Missouri Knights Honor Guard Join 2026 World Cup Mass In Kansas City



STATE DEPUTY MICHAEL AUCHLY SAYS:

My Brother Knights, what a great privilege and honor it has been to have served as your State Deputy the last two years. I would like to thank all of you for your hard work and dedication to the Knights of Columbus as you have Honored our Faith and Served our Communities!

Thank you for all of your kindness and generosity that you showed to Ruth Ann and I as we visited your Councils and attending various events all across the state. We will always remember the good times we had meeting you and spending time with all of you. I would like to thank all of my fellow State Officers, Directors, Chairmen and District Deputies who made all of these great programs run as excellently as they did due to their dedication and hard work. I would also like to thank the Past State Deputies for all of their guidance and help as you are a treasure to the Missouri jurisdiction.

This fall we will again be voting on Amendment 3 and we need this to pass this time. Please communicate with your neighbors and members of your parish about the importance of banning transgender procedures for minors, requiring parental consent before minors have an abortion, and ensure clinics have qualified medical professionals and proper cleanliness standards for women's health. As Knights of Columbus and Catholics we must work to pass this amendment.

The celebration of the 125th Annual Meeting of the Missouri State Council in April was such an exciting event! We especially thank Bishops O'Donnell, Rice and Johnston for celebrating Mass and attending the banquet on Saturday evening. Your presence elevated the weekend and we appreciate all of the support that you provide to the Knights of Columbus. We continually look forward to assisting each of the diocese in the many ways we can. Thank you to all members who attended the convention and helped celebrate this milestone event and we look forward to continuing this celebration as we now work to complete 125 years of service in the State of Missouri ending with our convention in 2027.

Membership has been on fire this year and I can't thank you enough for all of the inviting that you have been doing. It's been a long time since we have been able to say we have already met our Circle of Honor membership intake goal before the middle of May! I would also like to thank our General Agents and all of the Field Agents with the insurance teams for all of their help and support over the last two years!

During the past two years there have been over 2,700 new Brother Knights brought into the Order in Missouri! We still have time to make that offer to even more Catholic Men this Fraternal year. Keep inviting your fellow Catholic Men to join the Knights as we race toward the status of Pinnacle. With over 44,750 members now in the Missouri jurisdiction lets make it 45,000 to celebrate our 125 years! Who will take your place and continue the good works of the Order if we don't continually invite men and their families to join us as we Honor our Faith and Serve our Communities?

They say it is always best to leave the State in better shape than when you started as all my predecessors have. I believe that due to all of the work and dedication you have shown we can say that the Missouri Knights of Columbus has grown over the last two years and continues to improve in Membership Growth, Charitable Donations and Programs while expanding and establishing new programs and events to maintain the future of the Missouri State Council. Congratulations to Lucas Volkman who was elected as our new State Deputy for the next fraternal year at the State Convention held in Columbia. I wish Lucas all the success in the world and offer any assistance or help to you and your administration that Ruth Ann and I can give. I want to see your team succeed and break every record for the State of Missouri that is out there. Last but not least, I want to thank Ruth Ann for all of her support, her counsel, her grace and most importantly her love. I thank God every day for sending me a soulmate and a best friend. I am proud of what we have accomplished during my terms and I thank you again for the opportunity to have served as your State Deputy! Now let's earn that elite Pinnacle status to compliment your Circle of Honor accomplishment that you have already won this year! As always, I remind you to Celebrate Everything!

YOUNG WOMAN'S GENEROSITY SUPPORTS LIFE**\$1,000 Donated to Knights of Columbus "Meet Life" Campaign**

In a world that often moves too fast to notice quiet acts of compassion, Addison Loerch, a 13-year-old 8th grade student at Immaculate Conception School, has made a remarkable difference—offering hope and support to mothers facing unexpected pregnancies.

As part of her 8th Grade Empowerment Project, which challenges students to take action on something they feel strongly about or to serve a need within their community, Addison chose to support unwed pregnant mothers. With determination, creativity, and a heart for life, she successfully raised \$1,000, which was donated to the Knights of Columbus Council 1576 in Union, Missouri in support of the "Meet Life" Campaign.

What makes Addison's effort even more special is how she raised the funds. With the help of her grandmother, she used her time and talent to hand-sew small hearts, pumpkins, Christmas trees, and stars, which she sold to family, friends, and community members. Each hand-made item became a symbol of care and compassion—helping turn small acts into a meaningful contribution for life.

"I chose this organization because I had never heard of it before and I love what they do for mothers and their babies. One of the reasons why I love this organization is because you never know what someone is going through..."

This generous donation will go toward the purchase of an ultrasound unit, a vital resource that has proven to save lives. Ultrasound technology allows expectant mothers to see their child, often creating a powerful emotional connection that encourages them to choose life. Addison's efforts will help ensure that more mothers have access to that life-affirming moment.

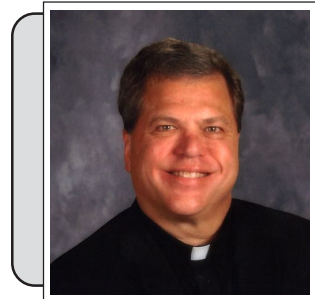
Her project reflects the mission of the Knights of Columbus and our on going commitment to the sanctity of life. Through the "Meet Life" Campaign and the Ultrasound Initiative, Councils across the country continue to provide real, tangible support to Pregnancy Resource Centers—equipping them with the tools needed to serve women during critical moments.

Addison's initiative is a powerful reminder that leadership and faith in action are not limited by age. Her willingness to step forward and make a difference is an example for all of us—encouraging our Councils, families, and communities to continue supporting life in meaningful ways.

The Knights of Columbus proudly recognize and commend Addison Loerch for her dedication, compassion, and commitment to serving others. Her contribution will have a lasting impact, bringing hope, clarity, and support to mothers who need it most.

"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." – Matthew 6:21

Left to Right: Krista, Addison and Matt Loerch. Matt is also Grand Knight of Council #1576 Mathausek Council in Union, MO.

**Chaplain's
Message**

by Fr. Greg Oligschlaeger

Dear Brother Knights and Ladies,

The virtue of **Unity** is foundational to the mission of the Church and to the mission of the Knights of Columbus. Blessed Father Michael McGivney founding of our order specifically to unite Catholic men so they could support one another spiritually, financially, and socially. This would strengthen the Church by keeping Catholic men spiritually active and standing firmly alongside the local parish, their bishop, and the Pope. In addition, the mission of Unity would protect the family by building a community of mutual aid to assist widows, orphans, and families in times of crisis.

The principles of the Knights of Columbus are taught through progressive "Degrees" of membership. The Second Degree of the Knights of Columbus is an initiation ceremony focused on the core virtue of **Unity**. It teaches that individual members multiply their impact through solidarity, emphasizing the strength of working together in support of the Catholic Church and local communities. The Second Degree builds on the Charity learned in the First Degree. It imparts the lesson that "none of us is as good as all of us". It reinforces that while a single Catholic man can do good work, millions of brother Knights acting as a unified body can achieve monumental charitable and spiritual goals. It reminds members that they are part of a brotherhood where they can count on the encouragement of other Knights when navigating life's challenges and in serving their parishes.

The Catholic virtue of Unity is the spiritual mandate to preserve harmony and peace among the faithful, mirroring the divine communion of the Holy Trinity. Our Triune God empowers believers to transcend divisions through charity, maintaining the "unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:3).

For Catholics, the inner unity and communion of the Trinity serves as the ultimate model for the Church's mission. As Pope Benedict XVI noted, because the Trinity is an eternal community of perfect love, believers are called to live in unity, peace, and mutual charity with one another, reflecting the divine communion on earth. At its core, unity is rooted in the belief that the Church forms one Body with Christ as its head. This oneness is visibly and spiritually sustained by a shared profession of faith, the unbroken line of apostolic succession, and the reception of the same sacraments. The Eucharist, often described as the source and summit of Christian life, is the ultimate Sacrament of Unity; it connects believers globally, transcending cultural, political, and personal differences.

Disunity and division, by contrast, are viewed as wounds to the Body of Christ and obstacles to the Church's evangelizing mission. Jesus Himself prayed fervently for the unity of His followers so that the world might believe in His divine mission. Therefore, the virtue of unity is intimately connected to the virtue of charity—the choice to love one's neighbor and seek common ground, even in the face of conflict or ideological differences. **The devil's main objective is to divide!** Satan divides us from unity with God and causes division in our family, our community, and in our nation. Today's American politics is so polarized that a person 'on the other side of the aisle' is the enemy rather than a fellow lawmaker. Social media thrives on confrontation and prejudices instead of discussing differences of opinion and tense topics in a way that bring understanding and a unified approach to our life's challenges.

Pope Leo XIV has made Unity and Communion a central pillar of his pontificate. He consistently frames unity as a foundational requirement for peace in a wounded world. In a world torn by violence, Pope Leo views Church unity as a prophecy of peace and an antidote to polarization. He has frequently used his homilies to urge believers to "disarm words" and reject the "war of words". His vision extends beyond Catholicism, promoting dialogue with other religions and people of good will to build a reconciled world where peace prevails.

This summer let us do our best to live the Second Degree of our Order by striving to unify rather than divide. Let us cooperate with the Unity of the Holy Trinity rather than the divisiveness of Satan. In small but healing ways, let us do our part with the grace of the Holy Spirit to mend the divisions in our families, our parishes, our communities, and our nation.

Prayers and Blessings,

**Visit Knights of Columbus
Historical Museum
Fr. Helias Council #1054
1822 Tanner Bridge Rd.,
Jefferson City, Mo
Contact: Tony Dohmen,
(573) 635-1898**



STATE SECRETARY LUCAS VOLKMAN SAYS:

My Brother Knights:

I hope that you all are having a good start to your summer. While our fraternal year is ending, there is a lot that we still need to do. Of course, make sure that your Council, assembly, or auxiliary paperwork is completed to close out the year. But whether or not your group is close to its membership goal, or still has a lot to go, there is a lot that all of us as individuals can do to ensure that new members are welcomed to the Order.



It's with deep gratitude that I thank you for your confidence in electing me the next State Deputy of Missouri. I will endeavor to fulfill this trust by serving your councils and auxiliaries to the best of my ability. Of course, I could not have obtained this position if it was not for the faith and support of the PSDs, state leaders, and my friends in the Councils that I have been a part of in my time as a member of the Knights of Columbus. Most especially, its through the support of my wife Crissy, and our son Joseph, that I am here today and able to write to you all.

The soon to be beatified Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen often explained that "Unless souls are saved, nothing is saved." The salvation of souls was the foremost reason that our founder, Blessed Michael McGivney, established the Order. In strengthening the Catholic family, not only materially through efforts like the insurance program, but spiritually as well, Fr. McGivney sought to ensure current and future Catholics would be led to their salvation. As *Lumen Gentium* explains from the Second Vatican Council, each family must be the domestic church where the faith is learned so it can not only nurture and lead to an eternity with God in Heaven but spread our faith as well.

Being that our State Council celebrates 125 years this upcoming fraternal year, we will continue to grow our charitable efforts and strengthen our flagship programs. But as your next State Deputy, I will ensure that the Missouri Knights of Columbus will help bolster the family and will be at the forefront of building the Church in Missouri. To that, we will work to expand our faith and family related programs, grow the COR intuitive, while supporting the multitude of strong programs we have in the State of Missouri in the next fraternal year.

Finally, I would like that extend my thanks to all the wives and family who have given their support to their Knights – whether it be in a Council position, DD, chairman, director, officer, PSD or agency, or just a regular Knight. Your love and support will always be appreciated by those of us in the leadership of the Missouri Knights of Columbus. But too, there is a reason that you continue to provide this support. Perhaps it is because you like our work in the community, or see what the Knights have done in your parish, or you hope to strengthen your family through his involvement in the Knights. Certainly, it might be something else. When he founded the Order Blessed Michael McGivney wanted it to strengthen the family. Whether it be through the insurance program or our charitable efforts, Fr. McGivney knew that if the Catholic family failed, that the children would likely lose their faith.

Be rest assured that you and your Councils, auxiliaries, and assemblies will remain in my prayers. I ask that you pray for me and the other leaders of the State Council in Missouri too.

Vivat Jesus!

Rebuilding Together With St. Clement #13604

On April 25, the brothers at St. Clement #13604 spent the entire day rehabbing a home through Rebuilding Together. The men removed one concrete slab from sidewalk and poured new concrete slab; cut the lawn; trimmed/edged the lawn; removed a tree stump; raked leaves; removed an old handrail to the basement and replaced it; secured a front porch railing; installed a new motion sensitive light above garage door; removed old flooring and installed new flooring in hallway.

The homeowner was extremely thankful and said that the projects completed will help her live another 30 years in her home.



IN MEMORIAM

William D. Voss	453
David "Frenchie" Barteau	823
Gary E. Driller	823
Donald L. Schneider	823
Robert J. Montgomery	876
Richard L. "Rich" Knaebel	995
James W. Klein	1037
Paul L. Essner	1111
Francis N. Filla	1121
James S. Schwaller	1121
Russel "Dickie" Lewis	1185
Donald P. Gallagher	1339
Robert L. Dody	1376
Peter J. Nicasro	1376
Fredrick E. Forsyth	1529
Norman W. Lampton	1529
Steven R. Proctor	1529
Dale G. Schmuke	1576
Charles R. Sweeney	1893
William W. Combs	2117
James E. Brughemke	2269
David J. Fleak	3375
Joseph F. Deimeke	3760
Richard A. VanGennip	5898
Jerry L. Balsman	6405
Bernard W. Kluesner	6405
William H. Loos	6405
Richard R. Neidbalski	6405
Jack Baker	6420
Donald C. Heisserer	6420
Larry Horrell	6420
Warren Masterson	6420
Aaron E. Proffer	6420
Wayne E. Chestnut	6430
Kelly R. Forck	6430
Richard H. Wekenborg	6430
Philip E. Bower	6794
Robert G. Hartman	7119
Leon J. Struempf	7194
Sidney C. Surgi	7307
Glenn L. Rackers	8399
Lester M. Fish	8620
Louis D. Para	8915
Walter H. Green, Jr.	9533
George M. Redmon	9533
Myles E. Mulligan	12323
Denis V. Gladbach	12992
John C. Malicoat	14745
John M. McCracken, Jr.	14745
Ronald L. Rey	14745
Peter M. Knight	16213

If your Council has Knights who have passed away, please contact State Memorial Board Chairman Mike Deamos at 816-405-7418 or MDeamos@hotmail.com for more information.



FR. MICHAEL J. MCGIVNEY

For more information contact Chairman Tom Broadbent thomasb040@hotmail.com

Please Pray for a Second Miracle toward Sainthood

STATE PROGRAM DIR. CHUCK PAQUETTE SAYS:

It was a true honor serving as your State General Program Director. My sincere thanks go to State Deputy Michael Auchly for his outstanding leadership and the invaluable knowledge he shared with me. I also want to extend a special thank you to my fellow directors— Brian Ziegler (Membership), John "Rocky" Gambon (Community), Anthony Jansen (Life), Josh Neuweg (Faith), and John Clarke (Family)—for their incredible dedication to the Order.



I look forward to the upcoming fraternal year as I transition into the role of State Membership Director. It was fantastic seeing such a strong turnout at the 125th State Convention!

Quick Reminders for GK/FS:

Submit Form 185: File your Report of Officers chosen promptly after your elections.

Update the State Website: Visit mokofc.org under **Services** then **State Forms**, under **Administrative & DD Forms**, to update your Grand Knight and Financial Secretary details for the State online Directory.

Grow the Order: Continue actively inviting eligible men to join us during these final months of the year. Let us finish strong, and keep the momentum going.

Be sure to check the **state calendar at mokofc.org** for upcoming events like the State Golf Tournament, BBQ contest, and horseshoe competition. These are open to all Knights and their friends and are perfect opportunities for fellowship.

Vivat Jesus!

GREETINGS FROM DISTRICT #9

by Bill Remshak D.D.9

The Councils of District 9 are proud to help the Missouri State Council celebrate 125 years, and America celebrate 250 years. But in all the festivities we take the time to thank God for all He has bestowed on us.

Arch Bishop O'Hara Council 4387 - Our Council held an Irish Whiskey Tasting and Lecture. It was a very good turn out with 33 attending. Special thanks to Dave Bertrand. His knowledge on Irish whiskey and its history is second to none.

Pope John XIII Council 5586 - Our Council is helping to plan and host our Pastor Father Jeff Stephan's 25th anniversary of his ordination party and reception.

Father Puetz Council 6550 - Our Council hosted an Easter Egg Hunt with 20 Parish youth attending. On April 11 we took our mouse track to our Brother Knights at 5586 and helped them host a very successful mouse race.

St. Bridget's Sons of Mercy Council 13113 - Starting in May our Council will be hosting a 1st of the month prayer breakfast. We are also had a Mother's Day breakfast on May 10th. Also starting in May is the summer long Cruise Nights which we provide food for the event.

St. Thomas More Council 14270 - Thanks to all the Brothers that lent a hand at the Altar Server pizza party. Father Sam Miloscia was along to help aid in the fun and fellowship. 90 Altar servers and 40 pizzas were served.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Council 14972 - Our Council hosted a Parish Talent Show at the last Lenten fish fry to outstanding reviews. It may well have started a tradition.



Momma Mia It's a Pizza Party! Recently the Knights of Columbus Council #14270 St. Thomas More hosted a pizza party for the Altar Servers of their Parish.

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR BRIAN ZIEGLER SAYS:

We are quickly approaching the end of the fraternal year and what a year it has been for the Missouri Jurisdiction. This will be my last article as membership director, and I want to start it off by saying a HUGE Thank You to the members of the membership team. These brothers have gone above and beyond this year in helping grow our jurisdiction and it is because of this hard work that we are close to something never done before in Missouri!



Our programs are exceeding their goals and membership has been setting a new standard for others to follow. For the first time ever, Missouri has a chance to reach Pinnacle status in the order. To reach Pinnacle a jurisdiction must not only meet but substantially exceed the membership goal established by Supreme at the start of the fraternal year. And as I stated earlier it is because of the hard work of the membership team and because of you, my brother Knights, for inviting new men to our order.

But brothers our work is not done, and we still have the month of June to reach for the stars. We need to invite every Catholic man we meet to join our order. It is fast, easy and FREE. They just need to go to www.kofc.org/joinus and fill out the form and use the PROMO code BLESSEDMCGIVNEY and then will receive a confirmation email within 24 hours they need to respond to and they are brother Knights and the first year is free. Brothers we can do this and what a better way to honor all of our past State Deputies than hitting Pinnacle for them.

I have often been asked why it is so important to get new members. Well the answer is simple. We need the new men to replace those brothers that we loose through the years. We need those new men so our charitable works will continue to thrive. We need those new men to be there to support our Priests/ Religious.

Again brothers Thank You for all your efforts inviting men to join our order and elevating Missouri to higher levels

Northwest Missouri Knights News

By Mike Violett DD#2

We had a good fall and winter with all the Councils able to stay active; with little bad weather here in the northwest part of the state. Now spring is here and all the Councils are planning for initiation of officers and making their calendar of events for the coming year.

St. Joseph Council 571 - Our Council attended the State Convention and enjoyed this years workshops. Host the monthly Mariners luncheon, and our home association has been hosting election days in the Council hall. This year we are celebrating 125 years as a Knights Council so is a special time for election of officers.

St. Munchins Council 1110 in Cameron - Have been having our second weekend breakfast's with great attendance, but are suspending them till September. Finished up our fish fries; Continue to have membership drives and going to have a Unified Degree soon.

Bishop Leblond Council 5067 - We have Bingo every Wednesday night and just finished our first full year. We had a very successful fish fry season and just sent members to the State Convention.

St. James Council 12463 - Finished our fish fries and was able to donate proceeds to our school, Parish, and education fund. Looking forward to summer activities.

St. Francis Council 15126 - Still having our monthly 10 point pitch tournaments; held a blood drive and now getting ready to have a baby bottle drive for PRC. Planning for a Parish Priest reunion this August and just recently went to see Elvis/Elton musical at the New Theater in Kansas City.

Assembly 569 Spring Report - Our assembly has stayed busy with several Honor Guard requests and gearing up for the "250" challenge, would like to see all the assemblies in the Missouri Jurisdiction participate.

Ladies Auxilliary 571 - Attended the State Convention and getting ready for a diaper drive.

STATE FAITH DIRECTOR JOSH NEUWEG..

What a great 125th Anniversary Convention we just had. Thanks to all those who attended and to those who worked behind the scenes to make everything run smoothly. I hope everyone enjoyed their time catching up with old friends, making new friends, and hopefully learned something new. As Faith Director it was great to be asked if there was a space to pray the Rosary for anyone who wanted to show before Mass Saturday. That is something most Parishes do but we haven't done it at the Convention for a while but I can see that now being something that will be done. Also the gentleman who went to Adoration while Mass was going on to ensure that even though the Blessed Sacrament was put away, that someone was in the Adoration Chapel with the Eucharist in the Tabernacle. Thank you to both of you.



The Faith Programs have been supported well this year by the Councils, Auxiliaries, Individuals, and Assemblies. These programs could not be successful with your help and the Chairmen in charge of them.

Chris Teel as RIB Treasurer and Dino Durando as RIB Chairman did an outstanding job getting appeal letters out, organizing the donations coming in, and getting the needs of the Diocese to the Grant Committee to fund the Evangelization Programs of all four Dioceses.

The four Diocesan Chairmen, David Kiesling, Micheal Calliotte, Chris Bradfield and Keith Beardslee are instrumental in communicating the needs of all the offices of the Dioceses to the Councils as well as what programs we have going on that could be beneficial to the Dioceses.

Tom Broadbent helped to get funds for the Missouri Religious Vocations Fund and get people signed up for the McGivney Guild. John Myer organized our Pilgrimages this year and did great at having spiritually fulfilling and beautiful Shrines to attend.

Fr. Joe Weber as the Msgr Mancuso Catholic Education Grant Chairman is amazing. This year he skillfully organized the applications and committee meeting that went over all 115 applications and made sure that all eligible applications got some type of funding. A big job indeed that he makes look easy.

Jason Kehl as COR chairman is the GOAT. He has been chairman for the COR initiative since it's beginning. Jason has been a great resource for all the Councils to start, and maintain a good Cor group for the betterment of the men. Through COR we are creating better men, fathers, husbands and communities through faith enrichment.

Deacon Luke did a great job putting together beautiful liturgies and taking the stress off of my wife and I as well as those who helped us setup and take down the altar areas for the Masses. 3 Bishops, 4 Priests, and an extra Deacon at the Convention Mass was daunting for me but Deacon Luke handled it like it was just another Mass. I didn't see him stress which helped me not stress as well. Thank you Deacon and I hope next year with hopefully 4 Bishops in attendance it will be just as smooth.

It has been a great 2 years working with our State Deputy Micheal Auchly with his leadership of the State Council and everyone on the State team. I pray that we can all work together and achieve the Pinnacle Award, not for any one person, but for all the members of the Missouri Knights of Columbus. As a fraternal group of Catholic men, we have achieved so much over the past 4 years that hitting the Pinnacle for the first time ever will be a great acknowledgment for everything that everyone has done this year to help build the order up. This will ensure that long after we are gone, there are men in place to take over for us and the Mission of the Knights of Columbus to take care of the widow and orphans, those in need, the defense of all life from conception to natural death, and the defense of our Catholic Faith and all the members of the Clergy, Holy Orders, and Laity. We are the strong right arm of the Church.

St. Catherine Laboure #12323 5th Annual Blacklight Bingo

St. Catherine Laboure Council 12323 recently hosted its 5th annual Blacklight Bingo during its designated "Faith In Action" weekend, continuing a remarkable trend of community engagement. The event was a total sell-out, attracting 308 guests of all ages—from young adults to seniors—for an evening of glow in the dark high-energy fellowship.

The centerpiece of the event's success was a concurrent diaper drive for the St. Louis Area Diaper Bank, which resulted in collection of 6,551 diapers. Beyond this immediate impact, the evening was an extremely successful fundraiser, providing the essential foundation for the Council's FY27 charitable contribution budget.

A project of this scale required a "small army" of support. The Council extends its sincere gratitude to the St. Catherine Laboure parish community, our generous sponsors, and the bingo participants for their overwhelming support. Special recognition is also due to the 26 Knight volunteers and the SCL Youth Core Team, whose seamless collaboration made possible this evening to remember.

Photo: Todd B., St. Louis Area Diaper Bank Warehouse Coordinator (left), and Steve Gilmore, Program Director & Bingo Chair for Council 12323, stand with a portion of the diapers collected during the event.



Charlie Hackmann's District #16 Receives "Double Star" Award

These past few months have been focused on growth as the District, made up of 5 Councils, achieved 186% over quota with 40 new members to date and 7 more new online members waiting to be exemplified! This success was driven by several church drives and one on one contacts. Their many and diversified activities seem to be the common denominator that drives growth! The more active the Council, the more new members that join!

Special recognition goes to **Ozark Council #10200** who is in line for another "Double Star" and potentially more with nearly two months left! They are planning to hold an event called "Hooves for Heros", an all-day event at a riding stable, that is for veterans and their families that includes a trail ride and picnic hosted by the brothers of Council 10200 on June 6th which is a good example why they are in line for a "Double Star" again this year!

It is very humbling to have the opportunity to work with all of the Councils in District 16 as they will strive to achieve the Star award! Congratulations to #6470 in Branson, 7588 in Kimberling City, 7680 in Forsyth, 10200 in Ozark and 13748 in Nixa for making your membership quota and potentially "The Star" this year!

Finally, it was my honor to host the district Councils from Branson, Kimberling City, Ozark and Nixa at this year's State Convention in Columbia at the end of April. **Left to Right, GK Lee Berhorst from Branson, GK Paul Lindfors from Kimberling City, Charlie Hackmann DD16 and Todd Hildreth from Branson.**



MISSOURI KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

125 YEARS

FAITH. FAMILY. FRATERNITY. SERVICE.

125TH ANNIVERSARY AD SPACE SALE

Help us celebrate 125 years of Faith, Unity, and Charity in Missouri!

Our 125th Anniversary Booklet will be distributed throughout the state to thousands of Knights, parishes, family members, and friends—preserving our legacy and celebrating our future.

Promote your business. Support our mission. Be part of our history.

AD SPACE RATES	YES, RESERVE MY AD SPACE!
<p>BACK COVER</p> <p style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">SOLD</p>	<p>Business / Organization Name _____</p> <p>Contact Person _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>City _____ State _____ Zip _____</p> <p>Phone _____</p> <p>Email _____</p> <p>Ad Size Requested (check one):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Back Cover (SOLD)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Inside Front or Inside Back Cover - \$750.00</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Full Page - \$400.00</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1/2 Page - \$200.00</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1/4 Page - \$100.00</p> <p>Payment Enclosed: \$ _____</p> <p>Check # _____ Date _____</p>
<p>INSIDE FRONT & INSIDE BACK COVER</p> <p style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">\$750.00</p>	
<p>FULL PAGE</p> <p style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">\$400.00</p>	
<p>1/2 PAGE</p> <p style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">\$200.00</p>	
<p>1/4 PAGE</p> <p style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">\$100.00</p>	

RESERVE YOUR AD SPACE TODAY!

Send checks to: Matt Gray, 7482 Six Lands Ln, Hazelwood MO 63042

TOGETHER, WE HONOR OUR PAST. TOGETHER, WE BUILD OUR FUTURE. 125 YEARS STRONG. A LEGACY OF FAITH AND SERVICE.



Greetings Brother Knights and Your Families!
 June is the month of the Sacred Heart – culminating with the Feast of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus on June 27. Spread devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and pray for Our Lord to make his heart our own, so that we may see and love in others what he sees and loves in us. The Sacred Heart of Jesus, painted in 1767 by Pompeo Batoni and now venerated in the Church of the Gesù in Rome. The reproduction bears the blessing of Pope Francis, through the Papal Almoner, and is one of more than 300 icons traveling across the world, from Council to Council, for veneration and use in prayer services beginning in 2025 and finishing in 2026. You can also visit kofc.org/sacredheart for resources and reach out to your state’s Pilgrim Icon chairman David Mitchel at 417-830-8000 to reserve the icon.

We continue to promote our 2nd phase to the Meet Life Campaign which started in 2011 and was targeted to reach a goal of 2 million dollars along with decreasing abortions in Missouri in half by the year 2016. Since the Supreme Court struck down Roe v. Wade and returned the decision-making power to the states, Missouri has taken a strong stance thus eliminating abortions statewide. However, surrounding states such as Kansas and Illinois still allow abortions to continue so our work is not yet done. The Meet Life Campaign has found itself in a quandary as Councils who have made donations to Meet Life in the past have now donated funds instead to the Aid and Support After Pregnancy program.

The Missouri Knights of Columbus have decided to award credit towards the Meet Life Campaign for those who choose instead to donate to ASAP. For example, if a Council donates \$500 to ASAP, they will receive a \$500 credit towards the Meet Life Campaign. Currently, the Meet Life Campaign in Missouri has received over \$212,000 this year in cash donations for ASAP, Ultrasounds, and the Meet Life General Fund. Thanks to all who have donated.

Please remember that at the 2021 State Convention a resolution was passed to ask every Council and auxiliary to voluntarily donate \$5.00 per member to Meet Life Phase 2. Should your Council still wish to make a donation, there are several ways to acquire funds for the Meet Life Campaign such as a Baby Bottle Campaign, Corn Hole Tournament, Casino night, fundraising dinner or just a second collection with your priest’s permission. If you need bottles for your campaign, contact the Meet Life Chairman, Greg Elsey at Glelsey@sofnet.com. We know that you will do your best to help save the lives of the unborn!

I want to remind everyone of our continuous support for Special Olympics Missouri. We have committed to building a pavilion at the Training for Life Center in Jefferson City. If you or your Council would like to be involved with this very important project, please see the information cards below. We also want to encourage everyone to get involved with Special Olympics in your area. If you see an event in your area, please reach out to the coordinator and see how we can support them. They especially love to see our Honor Guard, but they are in constant need of volunteers so they would appreciate anything we can do. The best place to stay in touch is somo.com. There is also an official SOMO App which will allow you to stay connected with all things Special Olympics Missouri right from your phone! Get the latest updates, event schedules, athlete stories, and exclusive content—all in one place. Track your favorite teams, sign up for events, and never miss an important announcement.

Pat Greenwell’s Dist. #29 Starts a Busy Summer After Springtime Success

KC District 29 Councils Monroe City Holy Rosary Council 1165, Indian Creek St. Stephen Council 1971, Shelbina St. Mary Council 2241 and Macon Immaculate Conception Council 3769. All 4 KC Councils held various activities during the Easter Season. The Knights of Columbus Sacred Heart of Jesus Pilgrim Icon. Was at the KC Councils March 15th 2026 to April 19th 2026 in KC District 29. All 4 KC Councils are having COR Meetings. Holy Rosary & Indian Creek Councils meet together bi-monthly. St. Mary & Immaculate Conception Councils meet together monthly.

Monroe City Holy Rosary Council 1165 - has been busy with their spring 2026 youth basketball league. Money raised will help with the Knights of Columbus Buildings. Helped with the Annual Holy Rosary Queen of Hearts Dance. They held their Annual Daddy Daughter Dance. Hosted a Divine Mercy Breakfast Sunday, April 12th, for all Holy Rosary Parish Members. Will once again be holding their Annual Mosswood 5K Run on Saturday, July 11th. Before the Annual Holy Rosary School Alumni Golf Tournament. Will be working with the Ladies of Holy Rosary School on some cleaning and repair projects to the Holy Rosary KC Hall. Discussed some other items that they will be working on to both the Holy Rosary KC Hall and Gym in the coming months. Looking at having some fundraisers to help with the projects. Had some local Holy Rosary School students do well in the Missouri KC Essay Contest. Had KC 4th Degree Members in the KC Honor Guard helping with Confirmation at Holy Rosary Parish.

Indian Creek St. Stephen Council 1971 - had a busy spring of 2026. Held their Annual KC Palm Sunday Communion Breakfast for all KC Members their families, along with prospective members and their families. Held their Annual KC Easter Egg Hunt, following the Easter Sunday 8:00am Mass. This is always a big event for the children of all the Indian Creek St. Stephen’s Parish. Helping the Indian Creek St. Stephen Parish with the Annual Swinkey Picnic July 19, 2026. Talked about having some fundraisers in the spring and summer to help fund various projects. Will be hosting a Band and Dance on Saturday, September 26th 2026 as a way to bring Indian Creek St. Stephen KC & Parish members along with others for a good evening of food and fellowship. More information to come.

Shelbina St. Mary Council 2241 - held several very successful Lenten Fish Fries this spring. Money raised help fund their Annual KC Scholarships to all high school graduating seniors who are members of St. Mary or St. Patrick Catholic Parishes. Giving 1 \$500.00 Scholarship to 1 Senior and all seniors getting \$100.00. Served several meals this spring as fundraisers for various KC Projects. Held their March 2026 KC Council Meal & Meeting at the Father Tolton Lodge northwest of Shelbina. Touring the lodge and chapel. Seeing how it is and will be a Great Retreat Center for everyone. Held their Annual Daddy Daughter Dance with proceeds going for Pro-Life Activities. The KC Council is raffling off 1/10 oz gold coin to help with various KC Council Projects.

Had several local students do Great at the Missouri KC State Free-Throw Contest. Held their Annual Palm Sunday Communion Breakfast following the Palm Sunday Morning Mass. Been working with the local Shelby County Food Pantry providing money and food this spring. Have and will sponsor blood drives this spring and summer. Been working in the St. Mary Community Garden. With most all the raised beds planted and vegetables producing. Planting also going on in the rest of the garden. Working with the St. Mary Parish on some major Father Buhman Center Projects. Had several 4th Degree KC Members in the KC Honor Guard. Help with the Conformations at Holy Rosary in March and St. Mary’s in April.

Macon Immaculate Conception Council 3769 - KC Council Members have been busy helping the parish with repairs to the Immaculate Conception Rectory after water damage this spring. Repairs will be on going during this spring and summer. Held a successful KC Fish Fry during Lent 2026. Money raised helped with local KC Scholarships. Will be giving away KC Scholarships this spring. Have been working with the Macon County Food Pantry with members working at it. Along with donating money during the year. Helping and donating money to the local Ray of Hope Pro-Life Group. Making plans for the Annual Maloney Dinner in the early summer. Making plans for other KC Council Projects for 2026. Helping with other Immaculate Conception School & Parish Projects too. Had several KC 4th Degree Members in the KC Honor Guard for confirmation at St. Mary’s in April.

The Annual NEMO Knights of Columbus Journey for Charity Tractor Cruise is Sunday, August 30th 2026. Monroe City Holy Rosary KC Council 1165, Indian Creek St. Stephens KC Council 1971 and Shelbina St. Mary KC Council 2241 of KC District 29 along with Hannibal Holy Family KC Council 907 and Palmyra St. Joseph KC Council 1937 of KC District 28 will be hosting this event. Food and money raised during the event will be divided between the 5 KC Councils. To go to local food pantries in their local KC Council areas. More information coming. These are some of the activities and events that the KC Councils in KC District 29 have been doing. Also, with their KC Council plans in the future.

Michael West Sends Greetings From District 40!

Congratulations to the officers elected at our 125th annual convention. Many thanks for Michael Auchly these past two years for his service to our order in the state. Congratulations to State Deputy Elect Lucas Volkman and State Secretary Elect Brian Ziegler. District 40 is busy wrapping up a successful year. There have been many programs and new members added this year. Kirksville area Knights were “thrilled” to help at the annual Special Olympics games held at Truman State University this past May. Members from nearby Edina also lent a hand to assist in the event which means so much to our special athletes. The Knights continue to lead in communities.

Knights of Columbus Back Nine Donor Gift

Recognize me as a Champion of SOMO based on my (\$250 minimum contribution)

Recognize me as a Friend of SOMO based on my (\$100 minimum contribution)

Enclosed is my one-time gift of \$ _____

Name(s): _____ Telephone: _____

Mail Address: _____ Council #: _____

Please make check payable to Special Olympics Missouri. (include Council Number on the memo line.)

Please mail this card and your contribution to: Special Olympics Missouri
 Attn: Carol Griffin, 305 Special Olympics Dr., Jefferson City, MO 65101

Missouri State Council Knights of Columbus Special Olympics Missouri Back Nine - Challenge Agreement

We, Knights of Columbus Council # _____ accept the challenge to achieve: *These Recognition Levels are to be achieved over the next 3 years.

- Platinum Level Recognition (\$100) per member _____
- Double Gold Recognition (\$45.00) per Member _____
- Gold Level Recognition (\$22.50) per Member _____
- Silver Level Recognition (\$18.00) per Member _____
- Bronze Level Recognition (\$15.75) per Member _____

*Please include the number of Members that are in your Council: _____

Knights of Columbus Councils that achieve Platinum, Double Gold, Gold, Silver, or Bronze Level Status will receive permanent recognition in the **Special Olympics Missouri Back Nine**. The space that will display levels achieved will be named the **Knights of Columbus Pavilion**.

Please check the following strategies that apply to your Council:

A) We are designating that a portion or all of our Tootsie Roll Drive turnaround funds go to Special Olympics Missouri and the building of the Back Nine Pavilion: _____

A1) If checked above, please write a percentage or amount given: _____

B) We are hosting a fundraiser (eg. Dice Run, Horseshoes, Washers, Golf events, etc.): _____

B1) If checked above, please write an amount raised or that you hope to raise. _____

B2) Please give date of fundraising event(s): _____

Please sign and date this Challenge Agreement and return to: Special Olympics Missouri
 Attn: Carol Griffin
 305 Special Olympics Drive
 Jefferson City, MO 65101

Signature(s): _____ Date: _____

If you have questions, please call Carol Griffin, Health Partnership Director at 573-469-7831

Special Olympics Missouri is proud to return 85% of every dollar directly to program services. We would like to thank the Knights of Columbus for your continued support for SOMO athletes and for helping to make the Back Nine a reality.



A Great Day With Knights & SOMO



Lending a helping hand at the Summer Games (but no coaching advice) Left: SD Elect Lucas Volkman. Above: PSD Mike Grudzinski on the microphone and SD Michael Auchly handling stats.

STATE COMMUNITY DIRECTOR ROCKY GAMBON SAYS:

Brothers, it was wonderful seeing so many Knights at our State Convention April 24-26th. For those that attended, our Community chairmen put a great deal of time into the archives and answering questions about our various programs. If you liked last year, then please plan to come to the 2027 State Convention as the Missouri Knights of Columbus will celebrate their 125th Anniversary.

Before I start to talk about the fall Developmental Disability Drive, I want to thank all of you for your hard work towards this year's drive. Our goal this year was set at \$700,000. As of this writing, we are a mere \$36,875 shy of our goal. That is amazing!!! If your Council or Ladies' Auxiliary has not reported their funds, please do so by June 20th. We have not been this close in quite a while and there still is time to make this \$700,000 goal a reality. Any questions? Please feel free to reach out to me at JGambon3645@gmail.com.

With all that being said, it is time again for every Council to start getting ready for the Developmental Disability Drive that will take place October 9-11th and October 16th – 18th. Starting now is the best time to make sure you have enough time to get into any Walmart, Dierbergs or any other place you want to hand out the tootsie rolls. For those on the East side of the State that wish to hand out their tootsie rolls at Schnucks stores you will only need to contact our new Community Director Anthony Jansen, and he can put you in a spot. DO NOT contact Schnucks! All scheduling for Schnucks stores will go through the state's Community Director, Brother Jansen.

Throughout the past year, we spoke about many of our often utilized programs such as the Coats for Kids, Drive for Developmental Disabilities, Soccer and Free Throw Challenge and more. However, there is a lot of information on the Supreme website about a number of program that go underutilized within our state. Take some time and look at these programs and try to work them in to your Council's schedule.

Helping Hands is a supreme program that each Council needs to look at. The Helping Hands program recognize the work many Councils already do to care for the most disadvantaged members of our communities. Homelessness, the elderly who may feel isolated and abandoned, and many others." There are countless reasons why people fall into difficult times. Each person's story is unique and often includes a series of unfortunate struggles. What is universal to all people in need is the fight to maintain dignity and hope for a better life. Prior to encountering these circumstances, the neediest members of our communities represented all socioeconomic levels. They were once referenced by their name but are now often viewed as nameless people that exist among us." This quote says it best, there are a lot of people that need our help, they won't come to us, we need to find them. Go on line to the Supreme website kofc.org and dig a little deeper in to this program.

Knights of Columbus & Disaster Preparedness this is the time of year to start looking at what you will do when disaster hits your community. The Knights of Columbus has a strong history of assisting communities in the wake of disaster situations. When we are prepared for a disaster, then when it hits, we as Knights can jump into action and be the community leaders and charitable support for families in distress and the neediest members of our communities. Our members assist with a wide range of relief and recovery efforts ranging from local to federal disaster declarations. Notably, our members put their faith into action following many natural disasters. While you are at the supreme site this program can be very valuable to your Council and community.

Habitat for Humanity Partnered with Knights of Columbus Councils work together to build homes for families in need. Each year, Councils throughout the Order donate a considerable number of volunteer hours and dollars to this worthy cause. Habitat for Humanity helps provide quality-built, affordable homes to needy families. Habitat for Humanity has helped more than 29 million people improve their housing conditions in 1,400 communities in over 70 countries worldwide. Contact your local Habitat for Humanity office, by visiting habitat.org

Supreme has done a great job putting their programs together, each of them have a special purpose. If you have not done so, go to the Supreme website and get more information on these programs.



A KNIGHT'S LEGACY

WHAT IS A QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTION?

BY: Brad Grill, PSD

Since the perpetual funds were established as part of "A Knight's Legacy" a number of senior Knights have requested information pertaining to how to make a contribution thru a qualified charitable distribution.

A qualified charitable distribution (QCD) is an IRA withdrawal that is paid directly from your IRA to a qualifying charity. While income tax is normally due on each traditional IRA distribution, the account owner does not need to pay taxes on the amount transferred directly to the charity.

- IRA owners must be aged 70 ½ or older to make a tax-free charitable contribution and can transfer up to \$100,000 per year directly from an IRA to an eligible charity without paying income tax on the transaction. If you file a joint tax return, your spouse can also make a charitable contribution of up to \$100,000.
- Inherited IRAs may also do a QCD. The beneficiary must be age 70 ½ or older at the time the QCD is completed.
- QCDs must be made by December 31st each year to exclude that amount from taxable income.
- QCDs can only be made from IRAs, not from 401(k)s, or similar types of retirement accounts. You might need to roll funds over from a 401 (k)s to a IRAs if you want to make a tax-free QCDs as part of your retirement plan.
- An IRA charitable contribution satisfies the annual minimum distribution requirement (RMD) for your IRA.
- QCD funds must be transferred directly from the IRA to an eligible charity by the IRA custodian, and checks must be made payable to the charity to qualify for the tax break.
- A charity must be a 501 (c) (3) organization to receive tax-free IRA charitable contributions.
- You as the contributor must report the QCD to your tax advisor. There will be nothing provided by the IRA custodian for tax purposes.

In addition to the above the following is a brief comment as to

"WAYS OF PARTICIPATING":

LIFE INSURANCE:

Beneficiary: Columbian Charities of Missouri, Inc., a Missouri not-for-profit corporation, or its successor organization, for the _____ (designate one or more of the listed funds and how allocated) to be used pursuant to said fund's provisions, as amended from time to time.

RETIREMENT GIVING:

Make a gift from your IRA, 401(k) or 403(b). The beneficiary gift can list a percentage or dollar amount. Doing so allows you to use and control your money during your lifetime while accomplishing your charitable goals in the future. Consider donating your annual Required Minimum Distribution (as noted above).

OTHER:

Other donations may include wills (Testamentary Bequest), cash, stock, and liquid assets.

Suggested Testamentary Bequest Form

I give to Columbian Charities of Missouri, Inc., a Missouri not-for-profit corporation, or its successor organization, _____ (describe the bequest). This bequest shall be added to _____ (designate one or more of the listed funds and how allocated) to be used pursuant to said fund's provisions, as amended from time to time.

Columbian Charities of Missouri, Inc. has established an Investment Committee and Investment Policy regarding its investments and the subject perpetual funds which provides ongoing oversight for the Board of Directors to assure the security of each of the perpetual funds and preservation of each of the corpus of the specific fund. Annually the income earned for each specific perpetual fund would be distributed for the purpose of that fund and the subject funds would each be administered pursuant to said fund's provisions, as amended from time to time. I look forward in the future to providing further details about the perpetual funds and in the future please contact your Knights of Columbus insurance field agent also for more details.

We Do It, Because It's What We Are All Called To Do!

By DD#50 Craig R. Henley

The Springfield PCC reached out to Council 13681, of which I am a Past Grand Knight, to tell us their fairly new machine was having lots of problems. We had worked with other local Knights Councils back in 2021 to help them purchase an ultrasound machine. Apparently that machine was defective and had been acting up for a long time. They told us of the need for a replacement machine and through a quick collaborative effort, I was able to raise the 50% of the funding needed to support the purchase of a new machine. The remaining 50% came from Supreme. There's a lot more to the story as this all happened in the span of about 2 weeks. God was definitely at work in helping make this happen so quickly.

A short time later, I was at one of my Council's monthly meetings. Knowing that I had been involved in the collaboration of multiple Councils to fund the machine for Springfield, I was asked to help the Republic PRC, who was in need of a new machine as well. This one took a LOT more work and effort to get across the finish line. Not sure all of the details are publishable. But let's just say that fighting for the lives of unborn children is not as easy as it might sound. But we ultimately raised the appropriate funds to help them purchase a new ultrasound machine to replace their outdated 13 year old ultrasound machine.

In just this fiscal year, both Springfield Pregnancy Care Center and Republic Pregnancy Resource Center have received new ultrasound machines courtesy of the Knights of Columbus.

Specific to the ultrasound machines that were donated, here are the entities involved in supporting the ultrasound machines:

Springfield Pregnancy Care Center:

- **Funded by Immaculate Conception Council 13681, Springfield**
- **Funded by St. Anne's Council 698, Springfield**
- **Funded by Holy Spirit Council 9533, Springfield**
- **Funded by Pope Pius X Assembly 1877, Springfield**
- **Funded by Council 698 Ladies Auxiliary, Springfield**

Republic Pregnancy Resource Center:

- **Funded by Immaculate Conception Council 13681, Springfield**
 - **Funded by St. Anne's Council 698, Springfield**
 - **Funded by St. Francis of Assisi Council 13748, Nixa**
 - **Funded by St. Joseph the Worker Council 10200, Ozark**
- Councils 13681 & 698 provided funding for both ultrasound machines.**

CONTACTS:

Lisa McIntire: CEO of Springfield PCC • lmcintire@417pcc.com • (417) 877-0800 • *It was announced in late March that Lisa will be retiring. Her term as CEO should be ending sometime in May.

Teresa Feemster: CNO of Springfield PCC • tfeemster@417pcc.com • (417) 877-0800

Mary Jackson: Director at Republic PRC • director@republicprc.org • (417) 732-5993

Craig's thoughts: • As Catholics we are Pro Life, but what does that mean exactly? And even more so, when we say we "Fight For Life," what are we prepared to do? How willing are we to truly fight? The fight for life is more than just voting for or against a particular amendment. It's more than donating funds as a means of showing support. It's more than putting Pro Life signs in yards and prayers for pregnant mothers and the unborn. All of these things are necessary and very important. But sometimes, it means stepping up and taking action when it would be easier to say, "someone else will do that," or "that seems like a lot of work." And sometimes it's as simple as supporting something or someone who has the ability to immediately impact the future of that unborn child, like our local Pregnancy Centers. The Knights of Columbus do all of this and more. We don't do it for accolades or recognition. We do it because it's what we are all called to do; put our Faith In Action.



Above Left: SD Michael Auchly ; Fr. Dave Hulshof (Pastor at Immaculate Conception Church in Springfield); joining Teresa Feemster (Chief Nursing Officer at Springfield PCC) with the new Mindray ultrasound machine. Above Right: Pictured Left to Right: SD Michael Auchly; Lisa McIntire (CEO of Springfield PCC); Fr. Dave Hulshof as Lisa presents the Knights with a placque recognizing their support of Springfield PCC with the purchase of a new ultrasound machine.



Above: SD Michael Auchly; Fr. Dave Hulshof (Pastor at Immaculate Conception Church) as Fr. Dave blesses the new machine with Holy Water.



Above: Members and spouses of the local Knights Councils who supported the purchase of the new ultrasound machine.

Family Activities strive to attract, support, strengthen and build better families. We achieve this by teaching, engaging, and encouraging families to be and live the Catholic faith with joy and love for one another. We focus on the family, providing activities, recognition, and promotion of prayer, service, recreation and growth.

On March 14, 2026, Worthy State Deputy, Michael Auchly appointed a Scholarships Committee to award the Missouri State Council Scholarships for the 2026-2027 Academic Year. After much consideration, the Committee chose to award the scholarships as follows:

Religious Vocations Scholarships:

We did not have any applications for the religious vocations scholarship this year. [Since there were no applications for the Religious Vocations Scholarships, the three scholarships were awarded to Missouri State Council Scholarship applicants. In awarding these transferred scholarships, the Committee gave preference to applicants attending Catholic schools.]

Luke E. Hart Scholarships:

- Kelly Gabbert** of Platte City, attending the University of Missouri – Columbia
- Audrey Brzezinski** of Wildwood, attending Missouri University of Science & Technology
- Rafe Jones** of Palmyra, deciding between UofM – Columbia and Missouri S&T
- Liz Noel** of Lee’s Summit, deciding between UofM Kansas City and UofM Columbia

Missouri State Scholarships:

- Claire Morris** of Jefferson City, attending University of Central Missouri
- Tessa Meints** of Lebanon, attending Missouri State University in Springfield (Lebanon Outreach)
- Morgan Murphy** of Vienna, attending Missouri State University in Springfield
- Joseph Bast** of St. Louis attending Benedictine College
- Adelynn Wallis** of Imperial attending Maryville University
- Kaylee Stevens** of Springfield attending Rockhurst University

Trade Vocations Scholarships*:

- Olivia Weckenborg** of Jefferson City, attending State Technical College of Missouri
- Allison Weckenborg** of Jefferson City, attending State Technical College of Missouri (* Each recipient to receive one-half of the scholarship funds.)

Each Scholarship is in the amount of \$1500 with \$750 being granted each semester of the 2025 – 2026 academic year. Congratulations to all the winners and appreciation and best wishes to all of the applicants.

Youth of the Year: Patriciae (Trisha) Crowder of St. Charles MO

Catholic Activities: Trisha is an active member and leader in the Impact Youth group at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, part of the Disciples group that serves and evangelizes other young people. She is a volunteer with the Ladies Auxiliary of Council 11382 and a PSR aide for the second grade. Trisha is also an altar server.

Community Activities: Trisha is a member of the Seedbearers team, which is a group of adults and teens who annually provide home repair services to persons who could not afford to have such work completed without such assistance.

School Activities: Trisha is an outstanding student, active in the music program and theater program at school, as well as being an accomplished pianist. She is also in the process of joining the Tennis Team for Duchesne. Trisha is unique among persons of her age in that she has taken the initiative to seek Spiritual Direction from the Associate Pastor of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church. Trisha is, with the support of her parents, discerning a call to a vocation as a Carmelite sister. She is a model to her peers in demonstrating what joy comes from an intentional effort to come to know the LORD.

In addition to honoring our youth we also honor a Family of the Year.

Family of the Year: Engemann Family of Hazelwood MO

What has the family done for the Community and Council in the past year?: Bob, Eileen and Bobby work tirelessly at every event the Council holds. Bob’s son Bobby is special needs but Bobby is always wanting to help. Bob is able to do almost every job at our weekly bingo and is there every week. Eileen also helps out at the bar during bingo as well as Bobby, who makes the popcorn. Bob is also a Boy Scout leader for the special needs Boy Scout troop that meets at our hall. He is very involved helping the scouts achieve new heights. Bob has been the chairman for our DDD drive for years. Bob, Eileen and Bobby all even work at the store fronts collecting. Bob and Bobby do most of the bbqing for our outdoor events including our special needs Easter egg hunt and our car show.

What Organizations are the family active in?: BSA, Knights of Columbus, Men’s Club

Providing assistance to our Councils are the Ladies Auxiliaries. We are proud to honor our Lady of the Year.

Lady of the year: Mary Kemna of Warsaw, MO

If there is one woman who embodies the spirit of Christian charity, humility, and tireless service, it is Mary Kemna. Through countless hours of volunteer work, leadership in parish life, and compassionate outreach to those most in need, Mary has become a pillar of faith within Saint Ann Parish, the Knights of Columbus Council 8620, the Ladies Auxiliary, and the Warsaw community. Whether organizing parish events, mentoring youth, supporting mothers in crisis, or quietly working behind the scenes, Mary constantly lives the Gospel through action. Her dedication, generosity, and unwavering faith make her a shining example of service and a truly deserving candidate for Lady of the Year.

Mary’s charitable outreach spans many ministries. She volunteers annually for the Tootsie Roll Drive, raising funds for individuals with developmental disabilities. Her love for young people is evident through her leadership in parish youth activities, including the Saint Ann Christmas celebration and parish picnic, where she helps plan meals, organize volunteers, and create joyful gatherings for families and children. Mary is a driving force behind parish fundraisers and community events. She sells raffle tickets and serves on the planning committee for the parish Autumn Festival, working long hours from setup through cleanup, and helping prepare meals for the community spaghetti dinner. She contributes bake goods to the St. Joseph Table, which provides assistance for families in need through gas cards, utilities, and prescriptions. Mary also prepares meals for Father’s Day breakfasts, funeral dinners, and parish gatherings, ensuring all feel welcomed and cared for. Her pro-life ministry is especially meaningful. Mary volunteers regularly at Loving Hearts Pregnancy Center in Sedalia, where she provides pregnancy testing, encouragement, and compassionate support to women facing difficult situations. With warmth and humor, she offers reassurance to young mothers. She also writes thank-you notes to donors who support the center.

Mary’s devotion to the Church is also shown through her support of seminarians through prayer and donations, her participation in Bible study, and her service as both a churchgreeter and Extraordinary Minister. She also helps organize celebrations honoring clergy milestones and special occasions. Beyond parish life, Mary volunteers weekly at the Benton County Food Pantry, helping sort food and assist families in need. Within the Ladies Auxiliary and Knights of Columbus, she prepares and donates ingredients for her famous chicken noodle soup that feeds more than 200 people at the annual Soup and Chili Supper fundraiser. She also helps coordinate fish fries, shrimp boils, parish dinners, and Council events, serving hundreds within the community. Mary Kemna does not seek recognition for her service – she simply lives her faith through action every day. It is precisely this humble dedication, her tireless generosity, and her unwavering commitment to serving others that makes her the perfect and most deserving choice for Lady of the Year.



**STATE LADIES AUXILIARY CHAIRCOUPLE
REGINA & RON
MACKENBERG**

Ladies our term has come to an end. We are so gracious for all your support these last two years. We truly enjoyed meeting and working with you all. We are proud of all your accomplishments. Keep it going.



As most of you know Andy and Amy Love are your next Chairpersons. They are off and running. They started early right after the convention as we brought them a truck load of documents.

These documents have been digitized making it easier going forward. Moving forward, nearly all forms will be completed online.

Andy and Amy have many skills that will move us forward.

One of the reasons for their early take over was Reginas health.

I am happy to say that she was finally diagnosed with a solution. A week ago a pacemaker was installed and she is feeling better.

Looking forward to seeing you at future meetings.

**Jim Paunicka And DD Robert Morgan
Combine To Report From District #38**

Msgr. Sprende Council 12676 – Our Council members are running the St. Louis Archdiocesan Annual Catholic Appeal at our home parish, St. Ann Catholic Church in Normandy, for our parish’s Pastor and our Council Chaplain, Fr. Mark Madden. We supported the St. Ann Parish Fish Fry by providing volunteer support including frying, running cooked fish to the sales area, and great bartending duty. We continue running our Queen of Hearts fundraiser every week on Thursday evenings, with all proceeds going to St. Ann Parish, which is a fun event with a cash bar and a chance to win thousands of dollars each week. We worked security details as a fundraiser at the St. Louis Energizer Park soccer stadium for the St. Louis City Soccer Club in the professional Major League Soccer league, and for the St. Louis Battlehawks in the United Football League at The Dome at America’s Center.

Thanks to our brother Knights from the Bp. Wurm Council #1376 for providing us the opportunity to work these games to support our philanthropy. We continue to work with the nearby St. Rita Food Pantry to help families in need. On the philanthropy front, we donated our 100% quota to the Meet Life Campaign, made a \$2,700.00 commitment to the Missouri Special Olympics Back Nine Challenge, purchased new microphone equipment for priests and deacons to use during Mass, and donated \$200.00 to the upcoming St. Louis area Serra Club golf tournament.

Ss. Gregory & Augustine Council 17355 – The Knights at Ss. Gregory & Augustine Council continue their service by performing Unified Degrees and by providing a church cleaning crew for their host location, the Oratory of Ss. Gregory & Augustine in Richmond Heights.

They held a successful Easter Vigil BBQ picnic, and have had some of their members going through Ostiarii training led by their Worthy Recorder and Ostiarius Primus, Worthy Sir Knight Robert Morgan, who is also our District Deputy. The Ss. Gregory & Augustine Council Knights also had a Saturday morning cleanup party for one of their Brother Knights in need.

**First Safe Haven Baby Box For North
St. Louis County Area In Missouri**



On Tuesday, March 24, 2026, the Florissant Valley Fire Protection District held a Blessing and Dedication Ceremony of their Safe Haven Baby Box at Florissant Fire House #1, located at 661 St. Ferdinand Street.

Recorder Steve Aubuchon, of Duchesne Council #2951 in Florissant, Mo., pictured above on the left, with Firefighter/Paramedic Gabrielle Kohlmann, on the right, were instrumental in securing community donations and local partnerships amounting close to \$30,000.00.

This is a major milestone because this marks the first box in North St. Louis County, providing a safe and anonymous option for families in crisis. The idea originated with Gabby in January of 2025 when she was welcomed to the Fire District team, and with the fortitude and passion of retired Overland police officer Steve, who saved several newborns in crises during his years of service, and endorsement from Council #2951, this Box became a reality.

The Fire House is currently under construction and being modernized to include, in addition to the Baby Box, new support and administration spaces, and a third apparatus bay for the district’s heritage fire truck. At the ceremony, Chief Jason Hoevelmann spoke about how this project fulfills the district’s motto “We Take Care of People”.



Photo right is the plaque with the major donors. Catholic and Lutheran churches contributed as well as the Ladies Auxiliary of Council #2951.

Triple DDD Drive The Weekend of October 9-10-11

HEALING HOOVES FOR HEROES



Sometime around October of 2025 the idea of Healing Hooves for Heroes began. One Sunday after mass at St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Church in Ozark, MO, Andy Love and Rita Reason were talking about Rita's father who was a World War II Veteran. Rita runs a 5013C Horse Rescue Ranch called Reasons Ranch in Sparta, MO. Rita told Andy that she always wanted to do a Veterans outreach program at her ranch. Andy had recently retired from the Army after 30 years of honorable service and was currently the Faithful Captain of the Bill Rhodes Assembly 2886 in Ozark, MO. Andy told Rita that he could probably make that happen. At the next monthly meeting the idea was accepted and June 6th 2026 was chosen as the date. It just happened to be the 82nd Anniversary of D-Day. The planning began.

A committee was formed and the ideas began to make their way into a working plan. Rita was consulted along the way at almost every turn. The Assembly had a few surprises for Reasons Ranch which we will talk about later.

One of Rita's primary requests was that no Veteran would have to pay for anything. With these marching orders the committee came up with the idea to involve the entire state of Missouri with helping make this event a reality. A flier was created and sent to all the District Deputies and Assemblies in the state requesting financial assistance to help fund this event. At the same time the local community was also being asked to help support this event either financially or with donations. The Knights and the Community responded as we knew they would.

The idea of not only the event being free but to have door prizes as well as a few gifts for the Veterans slowly began to take shape. Food was donated. We had enough money to get shirts; stickers and a special challenge coin was created for the event. With the event being on the 82nd anniversary of D-Day the idea was suggested to have the coin represent the 82nd Airborne shoulder patch. The iconic AA seen on the patch was replaced with the RR for Reasons Ranch. The idea of the coin became a reality. A member of the Assembly and retired Air Force Veteran bought and donated special bags and water bottles for the event. The stickers were placed on the water bottles and a gift bag was formed.

The idea of getting enough donations so that each Veteran could receive a free gift of their choice when they entered after registration also became a reality thanks to the amazing community and especially generous Knights and church members.

Veteran organizations were invited to come out to offer support for anyone who needed it. Warriors Journey and the Vet Center were two of the organizations who showed up and said they spoke to many Vets that day. Healing was already happening.

A couple of days before the event our State Deputy Michael Auchley informed me he had two signed Kansas City Chiefs Salute to Service football jerseys to be given away at our event. Those two amazing door prizes were added to a \$250 Walmart gift card, two one day passes to Silver Dollar City, a \$100 Home Depot gift card and a \$25 Hy-Vee gift card. The event was almost here. We had the logistics of food, porta potties, tables, chairs, signs and decorations all ready to go. We had a team ready to set up for the event. Rehearsals had actually been completed to ensure we were thinking of everything. It was time to execute the plan.

Here is how things actually went. June 6th arrives. We have breakfast starting at 0800 so our Veterans and their families begin showing up and receiving their registration bags with coins, shirts and cups. We have members of the boy scouts helping us park cars and a side by side picking the Vets and their families up from parking and bringing to registration. At 0900, opening ceremonies begin. We start with the National Anthem. We have two young ladies who help at Reasons Ranch ride the American Flag in on their horses. Both young ladies have an American flag and they stop right in front of our stage. An acapella group called the Coaches Four sing the National Anthem. After the amazing applause for both events die down the focus is turned over the Christian County Commissioner who reads a proclamation making June 6th Reasons Ranch Day. This was surprise #1 for Rita. It was a special thing the committee wanted to do for her. Surprise #2 was a letter of appreciation from the City of Sparta. The third surprise was a check from Assembly 2886 for \$1,000 to Reasons Ranch for all the great things they do. Surprise #4 came in the result of a Media crew coming at the request of the Supreme Knights of Columbus office to cover the event. The Media crew said they cover many events and they had never seen an incredible event like Healing Hooves for Heroes.

After all the talking is done the Coaches Four sing a few more songs. The kids break off and go to do a wide variety of things like Chuck a Duck, Parachute Tower, coloring and much more. The horses are saddled and rides are given in the corral. The Side by Side was giving tours of the 60 acres of property and 60 head of horses.

One of the last things besides a lunch and the prizes being given away was the community service project that was being done to help the ranch. We made a simple request. If anyone would like to help Rita while they were there, they would receive another ticket for the drawings. The committee thought we would get a small handful. We were wrong. About 20 people jumped in and knocked out three projects. It was an amazing display of the Veteran community giving back.

For Lunch we had a bluegrass band called "The Woodshed Boys" play and entertain the crowd. One member was one of our Fourth Degree Knights. There was also a 92-year-old Army Veteran playing the mandolin and fiddle. Early afternoon the crowd started to leave. We had approximately 30 Veterans and 80 family members and 25 Volunteers. There were 23 Knights who participated in this event. Cleanup and tear down began. Memories were made and a successful program was completed. Rita's simple comment after mass to a Knight of Columbus Sir Knight became a reality as a very impactful event. The Veterans and their families were honored in a very special way, through the healing power of horses, dogs and even a pig named Albert. Healing Hooves for Heroes was born.

RICH WIEBERG AND DISTRICT #20 CELEBRATING A BUSY AND PRODUCTIVE YEAR

1171 Westphalia Council - celebrated a successful Lenten Fish Fry season by presenting a check of \$5000 to St. Joseph Parish School. Membership is at all times high with 12 new members. This will earn the Council Star Council Award. The annual fishing tournament is being planned for the local Maries River. Lots of sponsors and prizes are being offered again this year. The Baby Bottle Campaign celebrated a successful campaign again this year. The school was awarded with a school wide pizza party afterwards. The State Essay Contest winner was a student at St. Joseph School. Awards presentation for the soccer challenge, the free throw contest and essay contest winners were held to celebrate these students. The golf outing at the State Tech driving range was a huge success recruiting new members for the Council. Grand Knight, Russel Voss, has met his goal for Star Council, congratulations to the Council for the extra effort. Spring Youth soccer program is in full swing, getting the area youth to learn and play soccer games. The local Boys Scout Group has moved their activities and meetings to the Council hall. COR is active in the parish and the Council with the first Wednesday Men's Prayer night and Signum Crucis in Jefferson City. Out with the old and in with something new will be happening this summer with a local business sponsored fireworks celebration. Plans for this family event is in the final stages.

1914 Herman Council - celebrates by making a difference in their parish and community. They are active in the Ministerial Alliance supporting the community with the fifth Sunday special collection money for the needy. Council activities include the annual parish wide three day rummage sale, T-shirts for the parish grade school students, bibles for those making First Communion, holding mouse races, chili supper at super bowl time, the pork sausage sales, prayerful pretzels for the parish school children. The "Coats for Kids" program has a new source of coats and saving the Council money in the process. Community activities include the annual assisting the VFW with their Wurst Stand during Octoberfest in Herman. Each year the Council offers a scholarship to a college student from the parish. The free throw contest and the state Essay contest are part of the Council activities each year. The Council worked on upgrading the speaker system at the Shrine at Starkenburg. COR is active in the Council with praying the rosary each Monday evening at church. Before each meeting, the Council participates in Mass and a Rosary in Church and a dedication to the Blessed Virgin Mary prayer service.

2027 Bonnots Mill Council - has already earned Star Council award again this year by meeting membership growth. Bonnots Mill Council has been very busy with a several raffles, twice annual blood drives and sponsoring "Mass for the Nation" at the three local churches. As many Councils, they start the evening activities and meeting with the rosary. In the spirit of "Leave No Neighbor Behind" the Council collected toys for adopted families in the community. The "Wheelchair Mission" and the "Drive for Disability" are part of the fall activities sponsored by the Council. RSVP program sponsored two seminarians in their studies for vocations. The annual steak night is on the agenda for this year again. Poster boards were made to highlight the council's annual activities and fundraisers. This is their recruitment tool for all to see. The Council celebrated family life with a special dinner and meeting in February. Husbands and wives attended the meeting that held awards presentations to local schools. The Ladies Auxiliary has been reactivated by the Council as well. COR is active with their men's prayer group, building their faith in the council and their families.

4838 Linn Council - has been busy with fundraising for the Special Olympic with the Drive for Disability, helping the two parish schools and churches with common microphones used during Mass. The St. George Parish School completed and dedicated a prayer/flower garden in front of school. Over the years the Council assisted with the parking lot renovations at church and school. The next phase of this project is assisting with the renovations of the lower lot area making more parking spaces. The Council completed the renovations of the fencing around the school building and replacement of the wall between the church and the rectory. Most all the labor and equipment were brother knights. Pre-Lent pancake breakfast is on the calendar for the students at St. George Parish School. The annual fried fish and fried chicken dinners, and trivia night, and fund-raising raffle support the council's activities. The parish schools at Loose Creek, Frankenstein and St. George at Linn all received donations from the Council. The council held their annual back to school BBQ for the students at St. George. The twice annual blood drives are back and running because of the help from the council members. The annual essay contest winners are selected and sent into the State. The annual free-throw contest is on the books and districts will be held at the St George School gym. COR is active in the Council with the Council sponsoring "Mass for the Nation" at St. George Parish before the monthly Council meeting.

6430 Taos Council - has been quite busy with their 26th annual Winter Wonderland raffle and their annual \$13K raffle. The "Wheelchair Mission" and the "Drive for Disability" were part of the fall activities as well by the Council. Other activities include the Council's golf tournament, and the annual family feed. Backyard golf tournament was held again this October. The participation was great, as usual, and the funds raised support the local parish school. The local baseball diamond is busy with youth ball players again this year. Each year the Council honors their veterans by placing wreaths at the graves of our deceased military veterans. The parish school participated in both the free throw contest and the essay contest. The Council upgrades the chrome books for St. Francis Xavier students. The Council members offered their time and talent with the renovations of the parish church. Many hours and manpower were used to trim the cost of this project. The church looked beautiful before the renovations, but now it is even more beautiful after the work has been done. COR is active in the Council by participating in Signum Crucis, a men's prayer group meeting and talking about their faith before the monthly council meeting. Afterwards the Council will pray the rosary before the Council meeting as well.

14906 Msgr. John Pleus Council at Jefferson City - Is in the planning stages for the annual spring BBQ pork steak dinner. The parish school is the sole beneficiary of the funds raised. The parish is in the planning stages for the replacement of the school facilities that were built back in the late 60's. Groundbreaking will begin this spring with the removal of buildings next to the parish. The Council participated in the annual teacher appreciation dinner held at Helias. All three Councils join forces to cook and serve their famous chicken dinner. Afterwards funds are presented to the three parish parochial schools and one high school in Jefferson City. Special Olympics torch run, the Vogelweid Center and the AGAPE house are just a short list of activities supported by the Council. The Grand Knight and officers composed a letter to the parents of students inviting them to join the Knight's Council. Many parents are joining the Knights in support of their school and their children. St Vincent DePaul Society has asked for support to provide beds for kids. The Council and adjoining Councils have stepped up to the challenge and raised funds for this program. Cor is active in the Council with the Signum Crucis program on the third Wednesday of the month at Helias High School.

This is a condensed list of the activities at each one of these Councils. Many of the Councils have been many more activities that are not listed. These are the highlights of their Council's work serving their church, their communities and most of all their families. It has been an honor to serve these Councils as their District Deputy. I look forward to each Council meeting to see all the activities at each Council and how they serve their families, their churches, and their community. The role as Diocesan Growth Chairman only helps me to understand the potential on how we support our families, our community and most of all our churches. **Where there is a need, there is a Knight of Columbus!**

District 18 Celebrating Everything

By DD Rich Wieberg

6365 Camdenton Council is celebrating with 4 new members in the Council this year. They support St. Anthony Parish in Camdenton and St. Bernadette in Hermitage. The past month the Council's activities include annual Shoot Out at the Lake of the Ozarks. Lenten Fish Fries, Bingo and others. These activities serve as the Council's fundraising activity and charitable events.

The Council meeting is being held on the first Monday of the month at the Council hall. The facilities have been improved with an expansion of the parking lot.

Annually the parish will hold a parish picnic with the Council members active in the day's event. Each month, on the first Saturday, the Council will hold a "fun Knight" inviting the parish families to join in the fun. Each family will bring a dish to share. In August the Council holds a blood drive. The goal was 33 pints of blood, but they collected 44 pints of blood. Outstanding! Supporting the community includes helping the elderly with grass cutting and general home maintenance.

Coats for Kids program is supported by local stores with coats and funds to help over 100 youth in the lake area. Christmas time the Council will coordinate with the parish to support families in need. The Council will adopt 25 families providing a Christmas dinner.

7133 Eldon Council is celebrating an active year in the community wand with Sacred Heart parish. The annual parish picnic has most all the Council members helping to make the picnic a huge success. Each October the annual apple festival/carshow in Versailles is a major event to support the Versailles food pantry and shelter workshop. The annual turkey festival in Eldon is part of the Council's fundraising events. The Council has members manning the county fair gate entrance. All the time spent is donated to support the local 4-H and FFA programs. Council members are active in reciting the rosary before Mass and before the monthly Council meeting. The Council members assisted with the three-day mission in the parish. It was well attended by the parish.

Current projects are the Coats for Kids and the annual Drive for Person with Developmental Disabilities. Through the efforts of thee Council, many local businesses will donate money or goods towards supporting both programs. Future projects will be the annual Christmas Santa Workshop and the Lenten fish fry. All the proceeds raised support the needs of the community.

9273 Lake Ozark Council is celebrating 13 new members into the Council. That will earn them the double star Council award. They are very active with Our Lady of the Lake parish. In August, the Council helped with the annual Feast of the Queenship of Mary Novena. The evening consists of scripture, songs and the praying of the rosary and Litany of Loretto in the chapel led by Our Lady of the Lake commissions and various groups in our parish. Afterwards, a simple meal or refreshments will be shared with those who attend. All are welcome to sign up to attend one or all the evening of prayer sessions.

The annual Drive for Persons with Developmental Disabilities was a great success this past year. The Coats for Kids program are supported by the local businesses with funding and coat donations. For the past four months, the Council and Ladies Auxiliary will help with the "Supper with the Saint" potluck dinner. Each month the parish celebrates the feast day of the saints with the potluck dinner. The lake activities include the annual motorcycle ride weekend. Many bikers enjoy breakfast after Mass.

The Ladies Auxiliary are busy helping with the DD drive, the Coats for Kids, Feast of the Queenship of Mary Novena and the upcoming Christmas Party. These ladies are really busy!

10381 Laurie Council is celebrating one new member joining the Council. The Council supports both St. Patrick parish with the National Shrine of Mary Mother of the Church and St. Philip Benizi parish in Versailles. The state pilgrimage was held in October at the National Shrine of Mary Mother of the Church. On Memorial Day a special mass was held adding names of mothers to the walls at the Shrine. These are names of mothers throughout the world celebrating motherhood.

Along with Eldon Council, Laurie Council helps with the annual car show. This is one of their many fundraising events. October is a busy month for the Laurie Council with the pilgrimage; car show and the parish fall supper. Add to that list the second Sunday pancake breakfast each month and the Shop with a Hero program for the local youth where they shop with the local fireman and police officers.

The Ladies Auxiliary are busy helping with the summer activities at the Shrine and outdoor Masses, Mother's Day presenting roses to mothers, blood drives and countless Council activities. There were many more Council activities held by the Councils to participate in the annual state programs. Most all the Councils have completed the Safe Environment Program training. All Council have completed the required report to Supreme.

ATHLETICS 2026-27 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Participating in the sporting events sanctioned by the Missouri State Council of the Knights of Columbus is a wonderful way to re-kindle old friendships and start new ones. It's a great family get away for a weekend not to mention the bragging rights for placing in the event. **The Following Is A List Of Scheduled Events, Dates and Locations:**

2027 Cornhole Tournament

January 29-30, 2027

Hosted by: Holy Spirit Council

Lee's Summit, MO

Contact: Jeff DeMarco

Phone: 1-816-286-9795



2026 Golf Tournament

July 18, 2026

Ozark Ridge Golf Course

Poplar Bluff, MO

Contact: James Deken

1-573-778-6682



Teddy Bear Drive

TBD

For More Information

website: Msteddybear.com



2027 KC State Bowling Tournament

O' Fallon Bowl

O'Fallon #2269, MO

March 6-7, 2027

For More Information

Contact: Kevin Hudnut

Phone: 1-636-856-3296



2026 BBQ Contest

July 24-25, 2026

Hosted by: Wm. J Barnwell Council

#1263 Location: Perryville Picnic

Grounds Perryville, MO

Contact: Ken Wehmeyer

Phone: 1-573-846-6162



2026 Horseshoe Tournament

August 14-15-16, 2026

Hosted by: Fr. Seisl Council #1121

Location: Washington, MO

Contact: Kyle Mantle

Phone: 1-636-221-1313



2026 Sporting Clay Shoot

September 19, 2026

Hosted by: Sacred Heart Troy #6525

Location: Blackhawk Valley

Contact: Jacob Weinand

Phone: 1-636-358-7116

Location: Black Hawk Valley

Old Monroe, MO



Entry Forms Due Approximately 30 Days Before Most Tournaments. Call Host Chairman for Details

For Information or Questions about Hosting a Tournament Contact:

Kevin Hudnut – State Athletics Chairman 1-636-856-3296

E-mail: khudnut2269@gmail.com

Remembering Brother Knight Othmar J. Jasper

Knights of Columbus Council 1121 mourns the passing of Brother Knight Othmar J. Jasper, who entered eternal rest on May 17, 2026, at the remarkable age of 105.

Born on July 1, 1920, in Washington, Missouri, Othmar was the son of the late Joseph H. Jasper and Mary (nee Filla) Jasper. Affectionately known as "Ottie," he grew up on the family farm surrounded by his large family and carried those strong values of faith, humility, and hardwork throughout his life.

As a proud member of the Greatest Generation, Othmar answered the call to serve his country during World War II. He served honorably in the United States Army with courage and distinction, exemplifying patriotism and selfless service to others.

On November 8, 1947, he was united in marriage to Marie Kopp at St. Francis Borgia Church. Together they built a life rooted in faith, family, and community. Othmar remained a devoted member of St. Gertrude's Church and faithfully supported numerous organizations, including the Knights of Columbus and VFW Post 2661.

Brother Othmar was a dedicated member of the Knights of Columbus for an extraordinary 80 years, a remarkable milestone that reflected his lifelong commitment to faith, charity, fraternity, and patriotism. His decades of faithful service and brotherhood left a lasting impact on fellow Knights and the community he loved.

Known for his quiet strength, gentle spirit, and steadfast example of Christian living, Othmar reflected the core principles of the Knights of Columbus throughout his life. He touched countless lives through his kindness, wisdom, and unwavering devotion to family, church, and community.

The members of Knights of Columbus Council 1121 extend their deepest sympathy and prayers to the Jasper family. May Brother Othmar rest in the peace of Christ, and may perpetual light shine upon him.



Rosary Walk - Lebanon MO - Pope St Pius X # 6871



With a goal to bring people together in prayer, fellowship, and a deeper connection with Christ through the Rosary, all while enjoying the beauty of the outdoors. This was the Council's very first Rosary Walk, and we are grateful for everyone who joined us to make it meaningful. We look forward to continuing this tradition, with many more opportunities to come.

The Rosary walk had 21 participants, 6 Knights, and two looking to join the order. We prayed the glorious mysterious and handed out rosaries, brochures on the rosary and prayers. We also had prayer intention cards participants could fill out before the hike. The hikers held the prayer intention cards and handed these off to Father who retained them afterward.