



Knights of Columbus Newsletter

Charity ~ Unity ~ Fraternity ~ Patriotism



Official Newsletter of the Knights of Columbus of Missouri

VOLUME 13, NO 2

“Your Grace is Sufficient for Me”

AUGUST 2026

Dear Brother Knights and Ladies:

I hope that your summers are going well. As vacation season winds down, and school starts back again, we slowly move into a more active time for your councils, auxiliaries, and parishes.

As we are in the beginning stages of the fraternal year, and planning for the upcoming months, it's important to look to see ways in which we can strengthen our parishes and communities. At the recent Bicentennial Jubilee Mass for the Archdiocese of St. Louis, in his homily, Cardinal Timothy Dolan referenced the two centuries of phenomenal Catholic development. But he added a caution, in that we should not be like the rich fool in Luke 12, who surveying what he had decided to take things easy – and died. As the Order grows in Missouri, and internationally, we should glory in the past works that we have taken part in as Knights and Ladies. But at the same time, we cannot rest on our laurels, as there is plenty more to be done, which I know you will all do through your efforts.

At the same time, last month through a video, I issued my first quarter challenge to the councils and auxiliaries in Missouri. I am asking each council and auxiliary, either together or separately, to complete 250 hours of adoration/Eucharistic devotion and 250 hours of service. This challenge is based on the US bishops and their request in June, as they consecrated the United States to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus on the 250th Anniversary of American Independence.

Thanks for all that you do for the Order. May the blessings of Mary our Mother and of our founder, Blessed Michael McGivney, be on you and your families. Vivat Jesus!



STATE LIFE DIRECTOR JOSH NEUWEG

The November election will be coming sooner than we know it. We need to get the conversations going. Talk to your friends, neighbors, and especially our fellow Catholics. Have the conversation about what is going on with protecting our youth from the horrible policies currently on the books about Transgender for minors, the protection for women's health that have been taken away by not allowing for malpractice law suites, removing regulations by the state on facilities. Please get yourself educated on the Amendment and start the conversions. You can go to Her Health Her Future for great information. It has been said that Amendment 3 can not pass without the Catholic vote. In the past election polling showed that only 57% Catholics voted against the measure compared to 87% Protestants. We can and need to be the difference in helping protect all life from conception to natural death. When Amendment 3 passes it will be a bell weather for other states to see that those who protect life can make it happen. Others can use this win as momentum to spread across the country and save thousands of babies, mothers, and families.

We've done a great job as a Knights in stepping up to the plate when we are called upon. We've been called to help and provide the Knights of Columbus Pavilion at the Special Olympics Training for Life Center in Jefferson City. Also known as the Back 9. We as a group raised over 1 Million Dollars to help build the center. As of this past month there have only been approximately \$90,000 in pledges and money sent in for the estimated \$850,000 Pavilion. We need councils to send in their pledge cards and any money that they have raised for the Pavilion. We will be having a link on the State website soon so the individuals can make donations directly to the Pavilion fundraising efforts. With any donations please mark in the memo line that your donation is for the KofC Pavilion. There are Platinum, Gold, Silver, and Bronze recognition levels for councils to be recognized at the Pavilion like was done for the Center itself.

Josh Neuweg
State Life Director



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STATE PROGRAM DIRECTOR JOHN “ROCKY” GAMBON

Greeting brother Knights and welcome to the 2026-2027 fraternal year of the Missouri Knights of Columbus. There are a lot of accomplishments from last year that we should be proud of. We achieved not only Circle of Honor but also the Pinnacle award for membership which means as a state we achieved 120 plus percent of our goal. What is amazing about that goal is that over 40 councils throughout the state of Missouri did not bring in one single member. We should be working hard this coming year to once again invite men to our order. It is not about recruitment but rather asking men to join an order Father Michael McGivney began so many years ago whose purpose still exists today. So please ask any young man to join us so that they may gain in both faith and charity what we have to offer in the Knights of Columbus.

In addition to our focus on membership we do have some new programs available this coming fraternal year. Please reach out to your District Deputy and if possible attend his District Deputy meeting. Our DD's learned a lot from their summer meeting and are willing to share that with you. Additionally, you can learn about a great many things that the Missouri Knights of Columbus have to offer by going to www.mokofc.org. This website is drastically cutting down the amount of paper being distributed and respectfully it is time that we move away from all the print. Take the time to look through the website, click on the many tabs on the front page and scroll through the programs that are being offered. You'll be glad that you did. Good luck to all councils this coming year and know that if you have any questions our District Deputies, our Chairmen and our Directors are here to help. You'll find their names and contact information on the web page. Best of luck to each and every one of you. Vivat Jesus!



STATE MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR CHUCK PAQUETTE

Fanning the Flames of Faith and Patriotism:
Growing Our Missouri Membership

Brothers,

As we navigate this historic fraternal year, we find ourselves at a unique crossroads of faith and patriotism. Our nation is commemorating its historic 250th anniversary, and there is no better way for the Knights of Columbus to honor this milestone than by strengthening our ranks with Catholic men ready to serve their parishes and communities. Growth is the lifeblood of our Order, and the Missouri State Council is tracking toward a monumental year. Now, it is up to every Grand Knight, Financial Secretary, and Council Membership Director to step up, invite new members, and bring our initiatives to life.

Clear the Pipeline: Work the Member Management Prospect Tab

While outward recruitment is vital, we must also ensure we are managing the men who are actively knocking on our doors. Many prospective Knights are choosing to join online via the Supreme Council Join Us Portal. When a man in your parish boundaries signs up online and selects your local council, he doesn't automatically appear on your active roster. He goes directly into the **Prospect Tab**. Grand Knights and Financial Secretaries must regularly log into the Member Management application via Officers Online to manage this pipeline. To effectively process these prospects, keep the following workflow in mind:

- **Check the Tab Weekly:** Do not let interested candidates languish in digital limbo. Open the Prospect Tab consistently to find names, emails, and phone numbers of men eager to get involved.
- **Make Immediate Contact:** Reach out within 48 hours. Invite the prospect and his family to your next council social event, breakfast, or service project to introduce them to the fraternity.
- **Conduct the Ceremonial:** Once the candidate is ready, schedule him for a Charity, Unity, and Fraternity Exemplification.
- **Execute the Transfer:** Immediately after the ceremonial, return to the Prospect Tab, input the exemplification date, and click "Transfer". This seamlessly moves him onto your active council roster without the need for a paper Form 100.

An unworked prospect tab is a missed opportunity for a family to experience the blessing of the Knights of Columbus. Let us commit to keeping our prospect tabs entirely clear this month.

Leave No Knight Behind

Brothers, the future of our parishes relies on the strength of our brotherhood. Let's utilize the patriotic momentum of the America 250 celebrations in your local parishes to invite men to join. Highlight how the Knights have spent over 140 years defending families, protecting the vulnerable, and fostering a deep love for both God and country. Every new brother you recruit strengthens the fabric of our community and brings your council closer to achieving Star Council status.

Let's maintain administrative excellence by proactively welcoming every online applicant into our local councils. Thank you for your unyielding dedication to the vision of Blessed Michael McGivney. Let's make Missouri a beacon of growth for the entire Order!

Vivat Jesus!



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

STATE FAITH DIRECTOR JOHN CLARKE

Summer Update and District Meetings
We, the State Faith Director and Chairmen, hope you are having a blessed summer and staying cool and dry. We enjoyed visiting with the District Deputies, State Officers, fellow Directors, and Chairmen in Columbia on July 11–12.

A great deal of information was shared and will be passed along to councils at your local District Deputy meeting. Please plan to attend; these meetings are open to any Knight and are a valuable opportunity to learn more about our faith programs.

Family Faith Fest Recap
The Family Faith Fest, held at Stephens Lake Park in Columbia on June 27, 2026, was a great success. Approximately 200 people attended and enjoyed food, fun, and games. Everyone was welcome, and everything was free.

Attendees expressed appreciation for the Knights and the effort that went into hosting the event. The fest also gave us meaningful opportunities to share who the Knights are, what we do, and how we serve. Several participants expressed interest in attending future events

250 Challenge
I would also like to remind everyone about the 250 Challenge proposed by our State Deputy, Lucas Volkman. The challenge is simple: from July 1 through October 1, work toward the following goals

- 250 hours of service
- 250 hours of adoration

These hours may be completed by both the auxiliary and council together or separately. They may also be completed individually or as part of a group.
Please send your hours periodically to Shannon Beecham so they can be tracked. We plan to post the results so everyone can see our overall progress in the challenge.

Upcoming State Pilgrimage
Please mark your calendars for the next State Pilgrimage, which will take place at the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal in Perryville, Missouri, on October 10, 2026. Watch the State website for more information.

Future Pilgrimage Ideas
If you have ideas for future pilgrimages, please let me or John Meyer know. We have several pilgrimage opportunities on the east side of the state, but fewer on the west side, and we welcome suggestions.
Vivat Jesus!
John Clarke
Missouri State Faith Director



STATE COMMUNITY DIRECTOR TONY JANSEN

Greetings Brother Knights and your families! Our 53rd year working the Drive for Developmental Disabilities is upon us and I hope you all are as excited as I am to get this drive going. Like the last couple year, all Schnucks stores throughout Missouri have been secured for council use to distribute Tootsie Rolls. I have been reaching out to councils to verify if they still want the same locations from last year. If you want to secure a Schnucks' location in your area for your Developmental Drive, please contact me at anthony.jansen@toyodagosei.com with your council's name and the ACTUAL ADDRESS of the Schnucks store that you want to hand out the tootsie rolls. We have two weekends October 9-11 and October 16-18th so we should have a place for any council that wants a store. Last year, many stores had an excellent presence of Knights councils while others remained available so please contact me. Remember, going online to Schnucks to secure a store will not work in Missouri, you must contact me. Also, we still are offering a new marketing tool for your council to help donors see who you are and what you are supporting. It is a standing A-frame sign promoting the Drive for Developmental Disabilities and tootsie rolls. Your council can purchase this free-standing sign for \$80 + tax. You can buy this sign using DDD funds. Just fill out the final form and put down the cost of the sign as expenses. It can be used for many years to come.

The sign has a QR code built into it. When a customer scans the code and makes a donation, YOUR council will receive the funds. Please give serious consideration to purchasing a sign for your council. By now each council should have appointed a chairman for their drive, and sent in their chairman's Information to Victor Bender (vbender5308@hotmail.com) on the East side of the state and Ed Velton (edvelton27@gmail.com) on the West side. Please contact your pastors about Knights presence on the October 9-11, or 16-18th weekends and handing out tootsie rolls after all the Masses. Also, all tootsie roll orders need to be in by August 18th. The minimum order is 33 cases therefore it may be advantageous to combine orders per district. Please contact your district deputy.

To find many of the Community forms, go to www.MoKofC.org. Click on the "Programs" tab and then on "Community". On the right side of the screen click on "View our Community Forms". There is a lot of good information here, including the order form for the tootsie rolls. It is a fillable form, and at the bottom are the two emails that you will need to send the form to. While you are at the forms page look at the other forms. The **continueToGive.com** site is set up to help all of you get more money for your drives. Each site has a specific QR code just for your council. Print it off and use the QR code on all your information, letters and emails. This is the best way to collect money from those who do not carry cash. **Let's make 2026 a record for DDD!**

It is also the time to start to get your orders in for the **Coats for Kids**, do not wait will till it's cold, get your orders in as soon as possible. On the supreme website kofc.org, is all the information to get Coats for Kids started. If you need more information contact Bill Lueckenhoff at wdlueckenhoff@embarqmail.com. Soccer challenge should also be on your mind, the kits are available at the supreme website, please get the kits as soon as possible. **Kits must be ordered by September 1st**, and the council contest should be scheduled in late September 13th – 21st. For more information, please contact Dave Dillon at ddillon50@hotmail.com Gentlemen, thank you for all you do. Let's make this coming Fraternal year a great one!



STATE FAMILY DIRECTOR DAVID KANDBINDER

Brother, Knights and families, welcome to August. Wow, already August. Schools will be opening soon, lakes and pools will be empty during the week, and vacations will be coming to an end. Sounds gloomy but the Knights of Columbus have you covered for some more exciting and fun-filled weekends to come.

Before we get to the August events, let's highlight all the fun we had in July.
I want to thank all the Knights, families, and friends that braved the extreme heat, rain, and friendly rivalry at the 2026 State Golf Tournament held at Ozark Ridge Golf Course in Poplar Bluff, MO, hosted by Glennonville Council #1572.

On Friday evening, the council hosted dinner and fellowship at Sacred Heart Council #1706 hall in Poplar Bluff, featuring a pork steak dinner and good company.
Golf was played in two Saturday squads: the morning squad began at 8:00 a.m. with announcements and prayer, and the afternoon squad began around 1:30 p.m.

As of registration time, there were 30 teams in the morning and 15 teams in the afternoon.
Here are the winners:
1st Place A Division – Chuck Paquette and Dalton Healy – Score: 67
2nd Place A Division – Jeff and John Renner – Score: 68
1st Place B Division – Joe Leahy and Randy Rahlman – Score: 69
2nd Place B Division – Barry James and PJ Buttner – Score: 70
1st Place C Division – Anthony Glass and John Gerard
2nd Place C Division – Bob Roth and Wayne Armbruster Afternoon Squad:
Great job by Glennonville Council, whose hard work and coordination made the tournament a success. They will host again on July 17, 2027, though a venue change is being discussed for next year.
Tournament proceeds will benefit the Knights of Columbus Developmental Center at Glennon Children's Hospital in St. Louis and the Back Nine project for Special Olympics Missouri in Jefferson City.



Kevin Hudnut, Mo Knights Athletic Chairman, was pleased to announce that Cardinal Gibbons Council #2341 in Warrenton, MO, has been awarded the 2028 - 2029 host council after a strong bid submission.
Moving a little further Northeast, we traveled to Perryville Mo for the 15th annual BBQ contest that was held on July 24-25 on the ST. Vincent DePaul Parish picnic grounds. What an amazing event. Not only were there some good food and drinks, but the talent that was shown at this event would put any reality TV food show to the test. Special thanks to Ken Wehmeyer, Justin Amschler, Seth Amschler, and Dave Schumer. Congratulations to all the participants and a big thank you to all that came out to enjoy the festivities.
We will announce the winners in the September newsletter.

August welcomes the 45th Annual State Horseshoe contest to be held in Washington, Mo sponsored by council 1121 on August 14, 15, and 16. Attendees can enjoy live music, food, and drinks. This event is huge and brings about nearly 2000 people. Come out and see these amazing players. Please see the state website for additional information.

On Saturday, August 29, the St. Louis Cardinals vs the Pittsburgh Pirates. This year's game day will be held on a Saturday **giving those in outlying areas a better chance to attend the game without getting home late in the evening before work or a school day.**
Our seats are in the Right Field Boxes, section 132.
The Cardinals are offering a promotional give-away: the first 15k fans age 13 and older will receive a Cardinals Purse, presented by Edward Jones. For future uses, the purse is stadium approved.
Tickets are \$30 each and proceed after expenses will benefit the K of C Developmental Center at Cardinal Glennon Children's Medical Center.
More details on the State Website.
That is all for now. We hope to see you at these great family events.

MISSOURI STATE COUNCIL
54th Annual Drive
OCTOBER 9-10-11, 2026

**WE
ARE ALL
CHILDREN
OF GOD** "Drive For
Persons With
Developmental
Disabilities"



2026 Horseshoe Tournament



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