



Knights of Columbus Newsletter

Charity ~ Unity ~ Fraternity ~ Patriotism



Official Newsletter of the Knights of Columbus of Missouri

VOLUME 14, NO 4

“Your Grace is Sufficient for Me”

OCTOBER 2026

STATE MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR CHUCK PAQUETTE

Attention all Missouri Grand Knights and Financial Secretaries:

Please log into the Supreme website today to check out our newest council resources. Keeping your council supplied ensures we can smoothly run our programs and serve our local parishes. Supreme has updated the online portal with essential materials for our fraternal year. We need every council to log in and visit the online store as soon as possible. While you are in the online Supplies area Order your Drive Kits Today.

Absolutely Free: There is **no cost** for these Drive Kits—the drive kits are completely **free**!

- **Two Kits Allowed:** Each council can order up to **two free kits** at this time.

- **Boost Your Impact:** These specific kits provide the tools to help your council run a **successful drive**.

- **Versatile Use:** Brothers, these drive kits can be used for **any event** that you have. To help find these Kits, go to **Supplies online**, scroll down to **Membership & Recruitment**, then Click on **Church Drives**.

Missouri State Council Membership Incentive Drawing The Missouri State Council will hold a drawing for all qualified councils that obtain **35% or better of their membership council quota by September 30th**. Only those councils that reach this 35% benchmark by the end of September will qualify. We will hold four separate drawings with one winner for each cash prize: **\$250, \$250, \$125, and \$125**. Use your new drive kits to help your council hit this goal!

A Message to Our Brotherhood: The Key to Growth Let's be actively inviting men into our order. It is time we challenge our councils to step up and **ask one person after church each week** to become a Knight. Look around your church at Mass. There are plenty of men out there who want to be Knights, but **no one has ever asked them**. It can be a hard deal for some men to just talk to someone they do not know. However, taking that step is the true **Key** to finding new friends, welcoming new Knights, and strengthening our brotherhood.

Thank you for your continued leadership and dedication to the **Missouri Knights of Columbus**. Let's make sure every council in our state is fully equipped, actively inviting, and ready to win!

Vivat Jesus!



STATE DEPUTY LUCAS VOLKMAN

Dear Brother Knights and Ladies:

I hope that this newsletter finds you well.

As we enter the second quarter of the fraternal year, things should be really moving for your council or auxiliary. If not, there is still plenty of time to get going, and certainly let us know if you need some help there. But this part of the fraternal year is really when a lot of the fun goes on with our efforts furthering the great work of the Order.

Each quarter I am issuing a challenge to the councils and auxiliaries in Missouri as a way for all of us to grow our faith and strengthen our family bonds. Since October is the month dedicated to the Most Holy Rosary, I am asking everyone to pray as many Rosaries as you can during the second quarter (October through December), and hopefully with your family, if you are able too. Our Faith Director, John Clarke, has more in his article on this challenge.

But our Brother Knight, the now Blessed Fulton Sheen, often talked about the importance of devotion to Our Lady and the Rosary. Bishop Sheen considered the Rosary as the greatest sacramental – that is the answer to everything. As we seek to grow our councils, auxiliaries, and parishes, while helping our communities, devotion to the Rosary can help strengthen us in our faith and when we are troubled with things not going well. More importantly, Blessed Fulton Sheen saw the Rosary as a great devotion for the family. As the Holy Family was of mind, praying it together is an excellent way to strengthen the familial bonds.

Thanks for all that you do for the Order.

May Our Lady be with you and your families, along with our founder, Blessed Micheal McGivney, and Blessed Fulton Sheen.

Vivat Jesus!



STATE PROGRAM DIRECTOR JOHN “ROCKY” GAMBON

The Importance of Being an Active Knight

So the fraternal year has begun and now come the requests from your council. Can you help with the Tootsie Roll Drive? Can you help with the Soccer challenge? Will you coordinate this thing called COR? And on and on and on. You might already find yourself a bit overwhelmed. I completely understand but consider this.

Being a member of the Knights of Columbus is more than simply carrying a membership card. It is a commitment to our faith, our families, our parishes, and our communities. Our councils are strongest when their members are willing to step forward, lend a helping hand, and put their faith into action.

Every Knight has something valuable to offer. Whether it is helping with a parish project, supporting a brother Knight, volunteering at a council activity, participating in a charitable program, or simply inviting another man to join us, our involvement makes a difference. We may sometimes wonder if our small contribution matters, but when Knights work together, those individual efforts become something much greater.

As Knights, we are called to serve. Our founder, Blessed Michael McGivney, envisioned an organization where Catholic men could strengthen their faith while caring for those in need. That mission remains just as important today.

I encourage every Missouri Knight to become more involved in your council. Attend the meetings when you can. Participate in programs. Volunteer when help is needed. Most importantly, look for opportunities to put your Catholic faith into action.

The Knights of Columbus is not simply an organization we belong to—it is a brotherhood we participate in. When each of us becomes more active, our councils become stronger, our parishes become better served, and our communities become better places.

Let us continue to live our principles of Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism—not just in words, but through our actions.

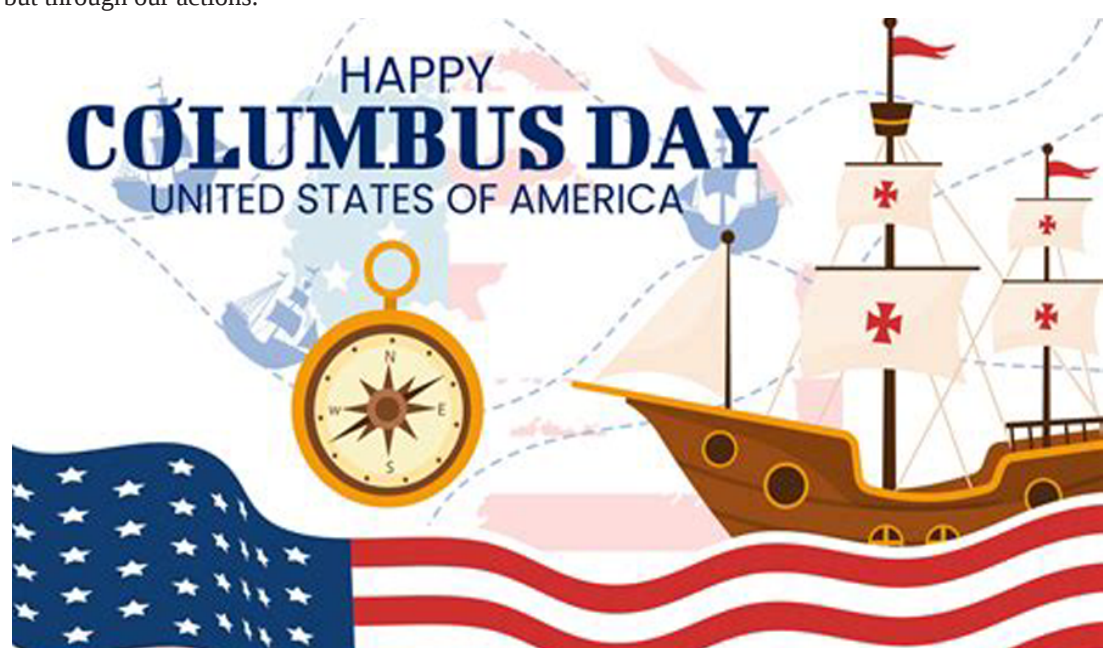


STATE LIFE DIRECTOR JOSH NEUWEG

During the month of October we are called to remember and pray for the protection of All Life. From conception to natural death. Please pray the Rosary as often as you can for the passage of Amendment 3 to protect the unborn, mothers, children, and families in our State.

The passage of Amendment 3 can help change the culture in our nation. We can set the tone to encourage people in other states to come together and overturn the pro-abortion laws that are on the books in other states. You never know this could help change the minds of those in states like Massachusetts where they just allow abortion on demand up to full term. If you are able to physically go out and help get the vote out to encourage voters who are likely to vote yes on 3, please use the contacts that will be sent out to all councils on how you can help. If you have any questions please feel free to reach out to me jjneuweg@gmail.com. Her Health Her Future has plenty of signs if you need more. They especially need help in getting out the 4x8 signs across the state. These signs are in Versailles MO at Calvary Baptist Church please contact Tom Estes tomestesabc@me.com to get signs.

As you finish up your Tootsie Roll Drives and fill out the turnaround fund application, you can donate that money to the Knights of Columbus Pavilion at the Training for Life Campus. This will count towards your council's pledge to help fund the Pavilion at the TFL Campus. We have made a commitment to fund this project and we have never missed a goal that we have set for the Special Olympics and we won't start now. Our goal is \$920,000. If your council can't donate now please send in a pledge card to Special Olympics on what your council is planning to donate. If you have any questions please contact Gary Beussink at garybeussink@gmail.com. He can answer any questions you may have.



STATE FAMILY DIRECTOR DAVID KANDBINDER

Brother Knights and families, welcome to October. Mother nature is showing her fall colors, leaves are dropping, and the evenings are cooling off. Fall is always a good time to enjoy the great outdoors. Visit a park, enjoy a local fall festival, take a walk, sit around a campfire, plan a family outdoor meal.

Although the Missouri Knights of Columbus Athletic events are coming to an end for the year 2026, we should note that all events showed an increase in participation and all events were well attended. We had an incredible summer and I would like to thank all of our Knights, councils, Ladies Auxiliaries, and families for supporting these great events like the Royal and Cardinals baseball games, State Golf tournament, State BBQ contest, State Horseshoe tournament and most recently, the Clay shooting event.

State Clay Shooting Event

The State’s clay shooting competition hosted by council 6525, was held in Old Monroe, Mo at the Blackhawk Valley Hunting Preserve. There were 64 registered shooters and 10 councils represented. The winners are as follows:2026 Missouri State Knights of Columbus Sporting Clay Shoot Results

Team

- 1st – Josephville #15433 (Walt Schnieder, Todd Reckamp, Mike Vogt, Mitch Haag)
- 2nd – Dutzow #1927 (Randy Kleekamp, Larry Heggemann, Randy Heggemann, JeromeKleekamp)
- 3rd – Wardsville #8399 – Wayne Bernskoetter, Jim Dallas, Rich Fisher, David Schnell

A-Class

- 1st – Brice Bruemmer – 46 long run of 32, 2nd – Todd Reckamp - 46 long run of 28
- 3rd – Brent Farell - 46 long run of 27

B-Class

- 1st – Randy Heggemann - 38 long run of 11, 2nd – Jake Daniel - 38 long run of 9
- 3rd – Rich Duffner – 37

C-Class

- 1st – Cherly Dowill – 37, 2nd – Amy (last name not known) – 26
- 3rd – Jaimie Kopp – 16

Youth

- 1st – Jaimie Kopp

Open Class (non-Knights)

- 1st – Dan – 48, 2nd – Zach – 43 long run of 29
- 3rd – Gary Kimbel - 43 long run of 12

Congratulations to all the winners and thank you to all who participated in or came out to simply watch the event.

Knights of Columbus Journey for Charity Tractor Event

As Knights we are called to serve and protect. This past month, eight amazing councils did just that. Councils from St. Clair 4667, Union 1576, St. John’s 8073, Washington 1121, New Haven 7475, Krakow 16213, Gerald 9465, and Dutzow 1927, combined their efforts to hold the 19th annual tractor cruise. 148 tractors were used in this year’s collection efforts.

Eight thousand pounds of food was collected. Ten food pantries located throughout Franklin and Southern Warren County will each receive 800 pounds of food. These councils did a remarkable job and all the planning that takes place months in advance was very noticeable in the success of this amazing day. Over one hundred items were also auctioned off, and 450 pork steak dinners were prepared and served. The totals are still being tallied and will be announced in the months to come.

As we end the summer months and head into the holiday seasons, this is a wonderful time to express other ways to show our faith and commitment to our church, families, and communities. The Faith in Action programs, listed below, highlight many ways to do just this. You can find more information at MoKofC.org. **This is a great time to order the Keep Christ in Christmas poster contest materials.**

STATE COMMUNITY
DIRECTOR TONY JANSEN

Greetings Brother Knights and your families!By the time you are reading this, we will be right in the middle of the Tootsie Roll drive. If you have not already done so, please ask you pastor if you can put the Continue to give QR code in your parish bulletin. It may also help to blast out an email to all members who may not have had a chance to donate. A little extra effort will get us to our \$700,000 goal. The difference you make with the Knights of Columbus Developmental Center in St. Louis is immense and I’m certain your local charitable organization appreciates your efforts as well. Remember, if your council is unsure who to roll those extra funds over to, Missouri Special Olympics is an excellent organization doing fantastic things with the state’s special need individuals. To those who have completed their drives, I hope you have had a successful Developmental Disability Drive, a.k.a Tootsie Roll drive. As I just mentioned, this drive serves to help many children at the Knights of Columbus Developmental Center at SSM Cardinal Glennon Children’s Hospital. What a special feeling all of us as Knights should be feeling knowing we are changing lives.

Once you are done with your Tootsie Roll Drive, you should be making sure all monies are deposited in the council account and a check made out to Columbian Charities of Missouri for the full amount collected. Complete the Drive Final Report and the disbursement report to find them go to mokofc.org, go to Services, state forms, community, and you will see the forms. Then fill them out and send them to Jerry Herbert, 7218 Picasso Dr., O’Fallon, MO 63368. Please remember to also send a copy to me at anthony.jansen@toyodagosei.com. Please have the final report sent in as soon as possible. The Disbursement Request for the turnaround funds, needs to be sent in as soon as you know where your half of the money will be donated too. For any awards the reports must be received by **December 1, 2026**, so do not procrastinate and get them in ASAP.

The American Wheelchair mission is a great program. So many around the world and here at home need to have the ability to be mobile. These wheelchairs give thousands the ability to be mobile. Already two councils that I know of how held a Wheelchair Sunday drive. A donation of \$150 will help deliver one wheelchair to someone in need. Please consider holding a Sunday wheelchair drive this fraternal year. Make checks payable to Columbian Charities and write “Wheelchair” on the memo line. Charles Leanu cmalenau12@spectrum.net can assist you with this program.

Essay contest should be starting, October through January, student’s essays should be written and judged at the local level. Councils must judge local entries and submit only their top one essay per grade level for the State judging. This year’s topic is ““ **Why should the rights of unborn children be protected?**” Please get students from the local schools, PSR, to participate. Essays should be 50 to 500 words and the original student’s work and should be typed on 8.5 x 11” paper



STATE FAITH DIRECTOR JOHN CLARKE

As summer draws to a close and Missouri Knights and their families have many opportunities to deepen their faith, strengthen their councils, and support Catholic communities across the state. This issue offers practical ways to participate in COR, attend the State Pilgrimage, take part in the 250 Challenge, and promote Father Mancuso Grants.

COR

COR continues to grow across Missouri as councils help men draw closer to Jesus.

Please report activities that fall under the COR umbrella—including parish men’s study groups and related faith-based gatherings—at www.kofc.org/cor. This brief online report helps the State Faith Team identify where support is needed and guide COR’s continued expansion throughout the state. For questions, please call, text, or email Jason Kehl.

State Pilgrimage — October 10, 2026

Join us for the State Pilgrimage at the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, 1805 West St. Joseph Street, Perryville, Missouri. The day’s schedule is as follows:

- **9:15 a.m.:** Coffee and doughnuts
- **10:00 a.m.:** Activities begin with a tour of the shrine
- **Between tours:** Confession available
- **Second tour:** Outdoor Rosary Walk
- **12:10 p.m.:** Closing Mass

We are also exploring possible destinations for future pilgrimages. If you would like to recommend a site, please let me know.

The 250 Challenge

First-Quarter Challenge

During the first quarter, Worthy State Deputy Lucas Volkman challenged councils and auxiliaries to complete 250 hours of service and 250 hours of adoration. After the challenge concludes on October 1, please email Shannon Beecham with the total number of hours your council or auxiliary completed.

Second-Quarter Challenge

For the second quarter of the fraternal year, October 1 through January 1, Worthy State Deputy Lucas Volkman encourages every council and auxiliary to pray the Rosary. No specific target has been set; each Knight and Lady is invited to pray as many Rosaries as possible. Family Rosaries are especially encouraged.

Rosaries may be prayed individually or in a group, and every Rosary is sincerely appreciated.

Reporting Your Progress

A reporting form will soon be available on the state website. Until then, you may email your completed Rosary count to Shannon Beecham.

Father Mancuso Grants

Supporting strong Catholic education for young people has long been a priority of the Missouri State Knights of Columbus. In 1984, Msgr. Joseph Mancuso led a campaign to establish a \$1 million trust fund for Catholic education programs throughout the state. Since 1990, interest earned by the fund has provided more than \$780,000 in grants to Catholic schools and parish-based religious education programs.2025–2026 Grant ProgramFor the 2025–2026 fraternal year, the program will award \$40,000 in grants. A record 115 applications were received from education programs across Missouri’s four dioceses.Eligibility and Application DetailsEligible programs include preschools, parochial schools, Vacation Bible Schools, high schools, and K–12 religious education programs. Key application details include:

- **Grant amounts:** \$500 or \$1,000
- **Application location:** Forms section of the state council website
- **Deadline:** March 1; late applications will not be accepted
- **Form assistance:** Contact Fr. Weber

As PSR classes and Catholic schools begin a new year, please remind educators about the Father Mancuso Grants offered through the Missouri State Council Knights of Columbus.

COMMUNITY DIRECTOR TONY JANSEN
CONTINUED

For more information contact Bill Lueckenhoff at bill.lueckenhoff@gmail.com. Please note the following essay requirements: Note: All entries become the property of the Missouri Knights of Columbus and will not be returned.

Finally, please remember to support your community by organizing council or parish Rosaries during the month of the Rosary, October. It is a great way to put the Knights up front as leaders in our faith. It may even get you a few new members. Gentlemen, you are doing great work for the continue. Please keep it up.



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