



The Magnolia



A publication of the Knights of Columbus—Mississippi Jurisdiction

From the State Deputy's Point of View

My Brother Knights:

I hope you are as excited as I am as we begin together a new fraternal year. Some want to call the beginning of a new fraternal year a new beginning but that is not correct. It is rather a continuing of the fine work the administrations before this one have done in the building of Columbianism in our fine state of Mississippi.

A new fraternal year is also the time for us to look at our strengths and weaknesses at both the council and state levels. Membership growth is always a challenge. We have a goal to recruit some 275 new knights into our Order. Can this be done? You better believe it. Recruitment has never really been a problem for Mississippi. Each year we usually bring in our goal. The challenge and difficulty is keeping our members; in other words retention.

Two months into Supreme's fraternal year, I have already received 23 notices of the intent from various councils to suspend their mem-

bers. Where have we gone wrong that knights want to leave our Order? Aside from reasons such as moving out of state or marriage problems etc., I believe that it is us who went wrong. Somehow we failed to keep a Catholic man interested in what we do. We in many cases failed to remember the word fraternal means brotherly and didn't act accordingly. We are all

members of the same team united in our Faith. Our diversity in membership keeps us strong. I offer this challenge of fraternalism to you as we conduct our service projects in the coming months.

Lastly, let us always remember our Order's dedication to our Lady.

Please let me know how the State Family can be of service to you. With best wishes for a great year,



Richard Lieding,
 State Deputy

State Deputy



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A Message from Our State Chaplain:

Greetings to all Knights and Ladies:

Let me introduce myself to all those councils I have yet to meet. I am the sixth child of eight born to Donald and Patricia Kaskie of Forest, Ms. I graduated from Mississippi State University in 1986 with a degree in Geology. I went straight into the seminary in the Archdiocese of Chicago. I graduated from Mundelein Seminary and was ordained a priest in 1992. I have served as an associate pastor at St. Mary Basilica in Natchez, Chaplain and Head of Religion Department at St. Joseph Catholic School in Madison, associate pastor of St. Francis in Madison and currently as the rector and pastor of St. Peter the Apostle Cathedral in Jackson. I have served in different positions with various organizations such as Birth-right, Alhambra and the Choose Life License Committee. I have benefited from my association with the Knights of Columbus in every town I have lived. I am honored to have been asked

by the State Deputy, Rich Leiding, to serve as State Chaplain.

One of my main interests as a priest is how to develop the spirituality of men. So much of religion is more appealing to women than men. I was a guest of Ron Hutchinson of St. Joseph Gluckstadt on Labor Day for the opening of dove season. Thirty-five fathers and their sons were up and out in God's great creation at 5:30 a.m. I asked St. Hubert, patron saint of hunting to keep us safe. Bishop Latino had given me strict instructions not to get shot, priests are an endangered species! As I took my place on the edge of a sunflower field I watched the sun come up. I thought how great it would be if the connection between our pursuit of game and God's pursuit of our souls was more apparent in our worship. I believe the Knights of Columbus are an excellent blend of gospel spirituality and manly interests. May you wear the mantle of your belief in all your interests and pursuits, showing the integration of faith in life and may

MID WINTER MEETINGS SCHEDULE BY THE STATE DEPUTY:

The State Deputy, Rich Lieding, announced the dates and times for the mid-winter meetings and other important dates. Please note them on your calendar.

Mid-Winter Meetings:

- Times are 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. for all meetings
- January 10th - Council 8848, Tupelo
- January 11th - Council 848, Jackson
- January 17th - Council 5654, Ocean Springs

1st, 2nd, and 3rd Degrees:

- January 31st, Council 9409, West Biloxi
- February 7th, Council 7854, Clinton
- February 21st, Council 6872, Picayune

4th Degrees:

- February 28th, Council 898, Vicksburg



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Discover a World of Good Things
in the Knights of Columbus

BISHOP'S ANNOUNCE FORMATION OF NEW KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS SEMINARIAN EDUCATION FUND FOR BILOXI AND JACKSON DIOCESES



Most Reverend Joseph N. Latino, Bishop of Jackson



Most Reverend Thomas J. Rodi, Bishop of Biloxi

Most Reverend Joseph N. Latino, Bishop of Jackson, and Most Reverend Thomas J. Rodi, Bishop of Biloxi announced that the Knights of Columbus of the Mississippi Jurisdiction have created a Perpetual Trust Fund to be called the Knights of Columbus Seminarian Education Fund. Both Bishop Latino and Bishop Rodi have expressed their strong support for the creation of this Seminarian education fund. The fund is based upon donations through gifts

beneficiary program. Both Bishops wrote letters that have been sent to all Grand Knights, Faithful Navigators, District Deputies, State Officers and the Officers of the Ladies Auxiliary along with letters of support from the State Deputy, Richard Lieding and the Chair of the Priest Education Fund, Paul N. Gospodarski.

Dr. Gospodarski is scheduling appointments with any council, assembly or Ladies Auxiliary to speak about this new program. You can reach Paul at 601-372-3937 and leave a message or you can call him on his cell phone at 601-573-2727. You can also e-mail him at:

Cathygospo1@aol.com.

If you are interested in assigning ownership of a life insurance policy to your dioceses, please contact your insurance agent: They are:

Mississippi Field Agents and Councils They Serve

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See next page for a list of the Insurance Agents for the Knights of Columbus, Mississippi Jurisdiction and the Councils they serve.



2003 - 2004

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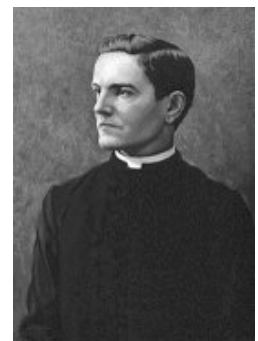
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DIOCESE OF BILOXI

1790 POPPS FERRY ROAD

BILOXI MISSISSIPPI

(228) 702-2111 FAX (228) 702-2139

Dear Brother Knights and Members of the Ladies' Auxiliaries:

"Do this in memory of me." We all know that these were the Lord's words at the Last Supper. From the beginning of the Church, Catholics have gathered to share the Real Presence of the Lord at the celebration of the Eucharist.

In order for the priceless gift of the Eucharist to continue to be celebrated in our churches, the Lord calls men to respond to the challenge and blessing of the priesthood. I deeply appreciate the support and encouragement which the Knights and members of the Ladies' Auxiliaries give both to the priests and to seminarians. Your prayers, kindness, and participation in parish life are important to all the clergy. Thank you for your support of our priests and their ministry.

I am also most grateful for the financial support from the Assemblies, Councils, and Ladies' Auxiliaries to assist in the education and formation of the seminarians, our future priests. We are blessed to have outstanding young men studying to be priests for the Diocese of Biloxi. Seminary education, however, is costly. The average cost for a seminarian is \$21,000 a year. Our diocese is fortunate to have several men studying to be priests. I thank God for this. I also thank God for your

Each year at the state convention the Assemblies, Councils, and Ladies' Auxiliaries present a most generous check to me as Bishop of Biloxi for The Bishop Gerow Priest Education Fund. In addition The National Supreme Council of the Knights of Columbus administers The Christopher Fund. This is an endowment, the interest of which supports seminarian education. Each Knight is asked to donate five dollars annually to this fund. National matches this amount. This allows the fun continue to grow.

In addition to these efforts, the Mississippi State Council of the Knights of Columbus will soon promote a third fund based upon donations through wills and from the life insurance beneficiary program. This fund will be known as The Knights of Columbus Seminarian Education Fund. I thank all those who are supporting the establishment of this fund. It promises to further strengthen the superb efforts of all of you to make certain that future generations of Mississippi Catholics will have priests to continue the Lord's command: "Do this in memory of me."

May God bless you and your loved ones.

Sincerely in the Lord,

Most Reverend Thomas J. Rodi

Bishop of Biloxi

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF JACKSON

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

FAX 601-960 8455

July 9, 2003

Dear Brother Knights:

Since my arrival here as Bishop of the Diocese of Jackson, I have witnessed firsthand a strong and vibrant presence of Columbianism. In my travels throughout the Diocese offering Masses in the deaneries, celebrating twenty-five Confirmations, performing ordinations of priesthood and diaconate or conducting the funerals for deceased clergy, the Knights have always participated in a visible and prominent way. Whether serving as Honor Guards or cooking and serving meals or hosting receptions, your generous and dedicated service to the Diocese and the parishes has been exemplary.

I am particularly appreciative of your constant commitment, dedication and financial support for the education of young men studying for the Priesthood for our Diocese. In a time when vocations are of critical importance, your interest and efforts to foster and promote vocations is a wonderful testimony of your love for the Church and its mission.

As the Bishop of the Diocese of Jackson, I personally wish to commend all the Third Degree Councils, the Fourth Degree Assemblies and the Ladies Auxiliaries, and anyone else who has made a contribution toward the \$36,667.96 this past year to the Bishop Gerow Memorial Fund for the Education of our Seminarians. This most generous gift exceeded last year's gift by \$7,023.04. Your generosity will assist the Diocese in the education and formation of those young men who will serve the Church and all our families in the future.

Again, accept my sincere gratitude for this support and all the many other activities of the Knights and Ladies of Columbianism. Assuring you of my prayers, fraternal regards and best wishes, I am

Sincerely in the Lord,

Joseph N. Latino
Bishop of Jackson

JNL:jc

Pray the Rosary to End Abortion **with the Knights of Columbus**

The Knights of Columbus Councils of Mississippi have established a program to pray the rosary to end abortion. We will pray at the abortion clinic on State and Fondren Streets in Jackson on the third Saturday of every month from 10:00 to 11:00 AM. The councils are asked to come as a council and invite all parishioners to come and pray with them. December 20 and January 17 are the next dates. Please bring your council banner.

January 22 is the anniversary of the Roe vs. Wade decision of the U.S. Supreme Court that ruled abortion to be legal up to the moment of birth of the baby. To coincide with this, the Knights of Columbus will participate in activities on Saturday, January 17 from 9:30 to 11:00 AM (on this day only) at the abortion clinic on State and Fondren Streets. The 4th Degree Honor Guard and Color Corp will be present. A multi-denominational singing group of young persons will lead in song. State Senator Richard White of Senate District 29 will speak on pro-life legislation. We will pray with the various denominations present. For more information please contact Antoine Otto at 601-898-3543 or antoineotto@aol.com.

Directions to the abortion clinic:

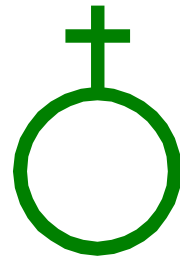
Exit off I-55 N onto Lakeland Drive West, which dead ends into Old Canton Road. Take a right onto Old Canton Rd. and an immediate left at the light onto Fondren Street. Clinic is straight ahead one block on corner of North State Street and Fondren.

KC LICENSE PLATES

We still need your help:

Enclosed with this issue of the Magnolia Knight Newsletter is an insert that can be copied and distributed to any brother knight who would like to apply for the **KC Special Tag**. If three (3) members from every council and assembly in Mississippi purchased the KC License Plate, we would meet the requirements of Senate Bill 2501.

The annual fee for the Special Tag is \$30.00. However, please remember that \$24.00 will go to the Christopher Fund and that amount is matched by our Supreme Council. Mississippi is allowed to donate up to \$30,000 that will be matched by Supreme. We are far from reaching that goal. By participating in the purchase of the Special Tag, you will also be contributing to the Christopher Fund and help in generating funds for our seminarian education for both dioceses. It would be wonderful to be able to tell our Bishops that we truly do support our priests and Bishops.



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The Mississippi Jurisdiction is proud to announce its recently developed WEB page. Visit us often for information about the spread of Columbianism in

www.ms.kofc.org

The Magnolia Knight

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