



# The Magnolia Knight



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Mississippi Knights of Columbus  
Editor- Noel Aucoin

## A Word from Our State Deputy



State Deputy Larry Tabor  
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### Upcoming Events

#### ◆ Exemplifications

Sunday, 30 October 1,2&3  
Degree Council 10443 Grenada  
(Tentative)

Saturday, 5 November, 4<sup>th</sup>  
Degree Council 802 Meridian

Sunday, 13 November 1,2&3  
Degree Council 6872 Picayune  
(Tentative)

Sunday, 10 December 1,2&3  
Degree Council 8848 Tupelo  
(Tentative)

#### ◆ Corporate Communion Biloxi Diocese

Sunday, 16 October, Nativity  
Cathedral, 7:00 am Mass

#### ◆ 2006 Convention Meeting

Monday, 24 October, Diocesan  
Office, Biloxi 6:30 pm

### Worthy State Officers, District Deputies, Grand Knights, and fellow Knights of the Mississippi Jurisdiction:

As you all may know, the Mississippi Gulf Coast region was devastated by hurricane Katrina on August 29, 2005. The effects were felt throughout the state as the storm passed through, communities were ravaged by the water and strong winds, and others were inundated with evacuees from Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama. Homes and lives were destroyed, but the spirit prevailed. Katrina affected people from all economic levels, rich and poor alike. We heard of incidents of amazing rescue and survival stories. We also now know the death toll as a result of the storm.

Shortly after the storm passed, I began to receive emails from not only Knights in Mississippi, but also from numerous Jurisdictions and individual members of our Order. It was heart warming to hear of the outpouring of support and prayers expressed by our Brother Knights from as far away as Hawaii and Saskatchewan. Needless to say, I was overwhelmed by this show of unity and charity.

The Supreme Council sent \$10,000 to each state affected by Katrina for disaster relief efforts. We have implemented a program to provide support to our Knights and widows of Knights. Brother Don Cox has accepted the appointment to be the Disaster Relief Program Chair and has started distribution of Wal-Mart gift cards. A full report will be provided at a later date.

Since I was unable to make phone contact with members along the coast or the rest of the State for that matter, I came to depend on the only working mode of communication—email. Our worthy State Treasurer, Peter Sukanek, became my life line to the outside world. Peter was able to communicate with Supreme and act in our behalf while Danny Lechner, Jerry Schumck, and I were without means to call out of the local area. Dr. Paul Gospodarski filled the important role of spreading the word to many throughout the State under his Good of the Order email listing. I owe a great deal of gratitude to both these men for the outstanding support and service they rendered in these difficult times.

I received reports from council's the Jackson area that had coordinated their efforts in a feeding project for displaced evacuees at the Coliseum. Councils in the northern part of the State were also support relief effort for evacuees. Many good deeds were reported, but I am sure there are more out there. Everyone should be proud of their accomplishments—their works were done in the name of charity coupled by the strength in their faith.

On September 13, 2005, I had the distinct honor to host a visit by our Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson and Assistant to the Supreme Treasurer Dennis

Savoie. Our first stop was to visit Bishop Thomas Rodi, at the Biloxi Dioceses for a damage report sustained to church and school facilities. It was time well spent as shortly afterwards the Supreme Knight sent Bishop Rodi a check for \$100,000 for relief support. From there we went to St. Michael's Church on Highway 90 in East Biloxi, which had major structural damage. The rectory and parish center were completely destroyed—debris piles were all you could see. A short time later we went to look at Council 1244's hall in downtown Biloxi. We could not get near it because of the debris that surrounded in. We met with Past Grand Knight Billy Gollott, whose home and business was completely destroyed—down to the slab.

As we travel back to Mobile Alabama, I could tell our visitors from Supreme were deeply touched by what they saw and heard while on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. I just wish we would have had more time to visit the many Knights in the affected area.

Offers of support are still pouring in and donations from several Jurisdictions have been very generous. I am very grateful for their actions and our Jurisdiction owes them our gratitude.

Let us not forget our mission and goals set for this fraternal year. Sure, we have had a set back, but now is the time to regroup and focus on the challenges ahead.

The 2006 State Convention is still on at the Imperial Palace Resort and Casino for the end of April 06.

I encourage everyone to keep our lines of communications open and active. Grand Knights need to continue reaching out to their current members and share their successes with their District Deputies. Council Membership Directors need to continue their recruitment activities. District Deputies should be actively involved in their council's activities. I solicit my fellow State Officers and State Chairman to keep in contact with District Deputies and Grand Knights when ever possible.

Keep up the great work and as always, contact me or the other State Officers or District Deputy if you have any questions or in need of assistance. My home phone number is 228-392-6379, work 228-377-2222, and cell number is 228-365-6515.

VIVAT JESUS!

Larry J. Tabor

State Deputy

## Supreme Knight Visits Hard Hit Biloxi Diocese

*State Deputy, Larry Tabor, reports on the Supreme Knights Visit:*

It was indeed an honor to bring the Supreme Knight Carl Anderson and his group to see first hand the devastation the Gulf Coast of MS received as a result of hurricane Katrina. Our drive back to Biloxi from Mobile, I learned they had already visited parts of Louisiana on Monday. Apparently they flew into Baton Rouge and met with LA State Deputy Don Cabbage and took a driving tour all the way through Slidell. Somehow they went to Jackson and spent Monday night there. Tuesday morning they flew into Mobile and met with AL State Deputy Bryant Collins, Archbishop Liscombe, and other KC state family members. I was advised to have the Supreme Knight back to Mobile by 1:30 PM. I was thinking, that doesn't give us lots of ground time in MS when considering the drive time back and forth to Mobile.

Others traveling with the Supreme Knight were Brother Dennis Savoie, Asst. to the Supreme Treasurer; Patrick Weltman, Communications, and Brother Everett (didn't catch his last name), Chief of Security. On our drive to Biloxi, the Supreme Knight stayed most of the time on his Blackberry and the others stayed on their cell phones communicating with Supreme. The ride to Biloxi took 90 minutes; our first stop was to see Bishop Rodi who told of the utter destruction to the churches and facilities throughout the diocese.



*Bishop Thomas Rodi, Supreme Knight Carl Anderson & Brother Dennis Savoie, Asst. to the Supreme Treasurer discuss the devastation left by Katrina*

Eight churches destroyed; five more pending study by structural engineers; how the Catholic schools destroyed or heavily damaged, and how proud he was to have the first school along the coast to open (St James, Gulfport). As he spoke with Mr. Anderson, I could tell of the Bishop's resolve to rebuild and tend to his scattered flock. When asked by the Supreme Knight if the insurance would cover the losses, Bishop Rodi replied "We had enough insurance to cover a disaster. However, we had a catastrophe."

Since the Supreme Knight wanted to see some of the destruction, Bishop Rodi recommended we go see St Michael's Church on Hwy 90, in East Biloxi. Weaving our way through some of the city's back road, the comments from our faithful visitors were remarks of disbelief, astonishment, and awe. In this case, pictures could not describe adequately what they saw-being there had a tremendous impact on them.



*State Deputy, Larry Tabor, & Supreme Knight, Carl Anderson, survey the damage at St. Michael's church in Biloxi.*

Our next stop was the remains of Council 1244's council home on Water Street. It too showed the ravages of the storm. Debris surrounded the building; no one has been able to enter it. Past Grand Knight Billy Gollott, who lost his home and seafood business, stopped by while we were there. Even after suffering such losses, Billy was telling how some of the council members were working to arrange for text books for Mercy Cross High School and surrounding Catholic elementary schools.



*PGK, Billy Gollot, SK, Carl Anderson, SD, Larry Tabor & Asst. to the Supreme Treasurer, Dennis Savoie Discuss the future of Council 1244, in front of the Biloxi KC hall.*

Brother Dennis Savoie was amazed to see the Grand Casino barge sitting on dry land next to St Michael's. The big guy, the security man, turned several times and walked away from us to be alone in his reaction. This was my first opportunity to stand in the midst of complete destruction. Sure, I say many photos and read many stories, but to be there was to realize how forceful, how complete, how many lives disrupted or lost, and how lucky we were to have survived.

My Brother Knights and to your family members, do not despair; continue to support each other and pray. As you come in contact with other KC's, let others know of their status. Take care. Contact me if you need something.

Respectfully Submitted

Larry Tabor, State Deputy

## Brother Knights Respond from all over the World . . . .

The following letter was received by the SD's of Mississippi and Louisiana:

Worthy State Deputies,

First, I must let you know how terrible we all feel for you, your members and families on the devastation that has occurred from Hurricane Katrina. My wife Pat and I as well as all our brother Knights in Saskatchewan send our prayers and best wishes to you, your families and all the members and families of your State jurisdiction. We hope that you will soon be able to get your lives back on track. Please be assured of our continued prayers for all.

Our State Charitable Foundation has granted a donation of \$5,000 to help in your efforts to help the Brother Knights and their families in your areas. I have also asked that all the Brother Knights in Saskatchewan donate money to a special fund set up by our Foundation to sent to Knights of Columbus Canada Inc. to aid you in your efforts.

If there is anything else you would like donated ie: clothing, food, blankets, household effects, bedding, toys, books etc. please let me know. I have a State Officers meeting this weekend on September 16 - 17th. I would like to discuss how we can best assist you in helping to rebuild the lives of your members or others in need. Please let me know by Friday morning.

May God protect you and give you courage to continue.

Fraternally,  
**Bob Barkman**  
 State Deputy  
 Saskatchewan, Canada

### Disaster relief Chairman Named

Worthy State Officers, District Deputies, State Chairs, Grand Knights and Brother Knights all:

Please be advised that Brother Don Cox has agreed to accept my appointment to Chair our State's Disaster Relief Efforts. I will meet with him soon to explain the process to issue Wal-Mart gift cards and accounting procedures. His email address is doncox1282@cableone.net. Don's home phone is working (228) 396-4896 and his cell phone number is (228) 860-8659. Please include him on any of your email traffic regarding this subject. Don can be contacted for distribution times and places

Vivat Jesus,  
 Larry Tabor



*SD Larry Tabor & newly appointed State Disaster Relief Chairman Don Cox hand out Wal-Mart gift cards to Brother Knights in need*



*Insurance Agent Jim Rigby helps Br. Knights, Rick Pellane & Jeff McAllister, during the KC relief session at Our Lady of Fatima. These Knights lost everything, including their travel cards & membership numbers*

### Squire News

Some good news from the Ocean Springs Squires Circle:

Ocean Springs Circle 2852 has been designated a recipient of a 2004-05 Corps d'Elite Award. This award is earned by Annually conducting at least four(4) major involvement activities in the following areas of the Squires program: spiritual, service, circle and membership.

Ocean Springs Circle 2852 has been designated a recipient of the 2004-05 Brother Barnabas Award in recognition of our circle's outstanding activity titled "Pro-Life Crosses. "The Brother Barnabas Award is presented to a circle in recognition of an outstanding singular activity by the circle during the program year. Our circle's activity is one of the 25 selected for recognition this year from among the best activities submitted for consideration by circles Orderwide.

Respectfully Submitted Joe Niezgoda, Chief Counselor Circle 2852, Ocean Springs

### 2006 Convention Update

The 2006 State Convention is still going to be held at the Imperial Palace, Biloxi, April 28-30. To make your reservations, call 1-888-946-2847 and ask for group reservations. Mention the Knights of Columbus and reservation code V153. Meeting notices for October will be mailed soon.

Vivat Jesus  
**Noel Aucoin**  
 Convention Chairman

Katrina Pics . . . .



Lee St. Biloxi



St. Michael's Rectory



St. Michael's Church



D'Iberville hit hard



My "new" deck & hot tub



Casino Magic

**Katrina  
8/29/05**



Council 1244



President Casino



Treasure Bay Casino



Some things  
will weather any Storm

**State Chaplain's Corner** *Fr. Mike O'Conner*

Virtue: Part I

I am as sure of the following sentence as I am of anything that I have ever said or written to anyone. You are personally called by God. Your call is to be courageous, to be decisive and make sound decisions, to have self-control, and to exemplify fairness. Moreover, and more importantly you have been called to have a deep and abiding faith in God; furthermore, you are called to trust God and believe that for those who love Him all things will work for the best. Finally, each one of us has been called to love God and neighbor passionately and sacrificially. There is one word that sums up all of these virtues, HOLINESS. Holiness is a word that does not always get the respect it deserves. Holiness, I think, usually calls to the mind of the modern American a frail old woman or a grandfatherly and unthreatening figure, but holiness should call to mind the perfection of all virtue.

Above, I listed seven individual virtues. When we find these virtues in our lives they indicate to us that we are on the path to holiness. In Catholic teaching these seven virtues are divided into two categories; the four "Cardinal Virtues" and the three "Theological Virtues." The theological virtues are supernatural gifts from God. In this sense they are not "natural;" they are supernatural. Only people in relationship with God through grace (the free gift of God) can have the theological virtues. The sacraments of the Church are channels of grace. The Theological virtues are 1) Faith, 2) Hope and 3) Love. Faith enables us to accept the truths of God; Hope, as I said before, allows us to trust in God in all things; and Love or Charity impels us to be devoted to God and others for God's sake.

The four cardinal virtues are 1) Fortitude a.k.a. Courage; 2) Prudence (making decisions in light of their real consequences); 3) Temperance (self control in food, drink and other sensual pleasures); and 4) Justice (fairness or giving another his due). When used in speaking of virtue "cardinal" means "hinged." All natural virtues are hinged to or stem from the cardinal virtues. For example, impartiality is a natural virtue under or hinged to justice.

You ask, why all this talk of virtue? As men, as Knights, as Christians you are called to be virtuous and to grow in the perfection of virtue, holiness. Consider this, the Latin word for Man is Vir - the root of Virtue - so to be a man (not just a male) is to be virtuous! To be a Knight means to be chivalrous. Chivalry is a particular kind of, you guessed it, virtue. Finally, as Christians one's life's goal should be holiness and a life of virtue is the path to that goal.

I have seen tremendous examples of virtue all over the Coast since the hurricane. People living their faith, helping one another, and expressing their trust in God in spite of terrible loss. Yes, there are a lot of good examples of virtue in the world. Have you answered your call from God to be one of them?

Yours In Christ,  
Fr. Mike O'Conner

**Katrina Donations**

The State Officers would like to keep an accurate record of money donated to our Councils, by other KC Councils or individual Knights, in relief of Katrina. State deputy, Larry Tabor request that any money donated to, individual councils, be reported to your District Deputy and in-turn to the State Treasurer, Peter Sukanek. This will aid in supplying Supreme with an accurate donation total.