



The Magnolia Knight



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Mississippi Knights of Columbus
Editor- Noel Aucoin



State Deputy Larry Tabor

A Word from our State Deputy

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

As we prepare for the beginning of a new fraternal year, we need to take stock on our past accomplishments and plan for necessary actions we must take to ensure we have a bigger and better year than last. Foremost on our agenda must be recruitment of new members. We cannot expect new Catholic men to join our ranks if we do not take the initiative and ask them to join. Every one of us should not only carry a Form 100 with us where ever we go, but we must also prepare ourselves on how to effectively communicate the value of becoming a Knight of Columbus.

I recently heard of a situation where when a Bishop was asked to join the Knights, he asked the man "Why should I become a Knight?" Well, it just so happened that the Knight who asked the Bishop had gained so much more insight about his Catholic faith, blurted out to the Bishop "It will make you a better Catholic". Well, the Bishop was impressed and took the Form 100 from the Knight and took his First Degree shortly afterwards. You will never know if a Catholic man would like to join the Knights if you do not take the first step to ask them.

Denise and I just returned from a trip to the Supreme Council in New Haven this past weekend. We met up with State Deputies and their wives from the 2006 Class and had a ball. After hearing a presentation on membership, we all agreed that our wives should also carry Form 100's and approach their lady friends to "encourage" their husbands to join! Great idea!

The weekend at Supreme was very informative and filled with great people talking about great things to look forward to in the coming year. I haven't had a chance to go over all of the material they handed to me, but should have it all separated before the organizational meeting and Schools of Columbianism. If you haven't heard, here is some information on these to events:

Organizational Meeting: 7,8, 9 July: To be held at Our Lady of Fatima Church Parish on Pass Road in West Biloxi. There will be a social on Friday night beginning at 6:30. Saturday's first meeting begins at 9 AM and will conclude before 3 PM. Mass will be at 5 PM with a banquet to follow, cost is \$12.00 per person.

Schools of Columbianism: Meetings will begin promptly at noon and end at 4 PM. The dates and locations are as follows:

Southern: West Biloxi, Council 9409
Sunday, 9 July 2006

Northern: Clarksdale, Council 2969
Saturday, 15 July 2006

Central: Madison, Council 9543
Sunday, 16 July 2006

Since we will be seeing all of the Grand Knights, Financial Secretaries and Council Program personnel at these meetings, let not forget to bring the necessary forms if you have not mailed them in yet. We need your Election of Council Officers (Form 185) and Appointment of Council Program Personnel (Form 365). We will be looking for your Council Audit Form in August. Please make sure these forms are submitted so the State Directory can be completed on time.

We need to start planning for Major Exemplifications, so councils who would like to host a Second and Third Degrees, please be prepared to discuss it with us and have a date in mind. I would like to see many more First Degrees being held too.

Keep up the great work all of you do and as always, contact me or any of the other State Officers or your 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. My email address is: Statedep@datasync.com.

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Upcoming Events

◆ **Exemplifications**
Wednesday, 28 Jun 1st, Degree
7pm Council 5654 Ocean Springs

Sunday, 20 Aug 2nd & 3rd,
Degree Council 1244 Biloxi

Sunday, 27 Aug 2nd & 3rd,
Degree Council 898 Vicksburg

◆ **Schools of Columbianism**
Southern: West Biloxi, Council
9409 Sunday, 9 Jul

Northern: Clarksdale, Council
2969 Saturday, 15 Jul

Central: Madison, Council
9543 Sunday, 16 Jul

Any council wishing to host a Major Exemplifications please contact State Advocate and Ceremonials Chairman Jerry Schmuck as soon as possible.

VIVAT JESUS!
Larry J. Tabor
State Deputy

Ordination of New Priest in the Jackson Diocese



Bishop Gerow Assembly #554 honor guard saluting Rev. Lenin Vargas following his ordination June 3, 2006 at the Cathedral of St. Peter the Apostle. Pictured left to right are, Bishop Joseph N. Latino, current Bishop of the Jackson Diocese, Father Lenin Vargas and Bishop William Houck, former Bishop of the Jackson Diocese.

Assembly 2734 Loses Their Faithful Friar

Father Vu has served as Faithful Friar for the past year, but must give up that post because of his reassignment to Peterson Air Force base in Colorado. Over 50 well-wishers attended the May social to help honor Father Vu. In addition to conferring the Patriot Award, Faithful Navigator Brian Engelland presented several gifts to Father to thank him for his enthusiastic support of the Knights of Columbus.

The first gift was the Faithful Friar Jewel which Engelland placed around the neck of Father Vu. The second gift was a copy of the new book, Parish Priest, the biography of Father Michael McGivney, founder of the Knights of Columbus. Trustee Gino Conti also presented Father Vu with a matched set of rhinestone-decorated pins – both Third Degree and Fourth Degree emblems.

Father Robert Dore, pastor of Annunciation Parish, and Father Tim Butler, incoming Chaplain for the Columbus Air Force Base, also spoke fondly of Father Vu's service to area Knights. We wish Father continued success in his priesthood!

Submitted By,
Dr. Brian T. Engelland



Father Joseph Vu (left), Faithful Friar of the Sir Knight Eugene T. Hicks Assembly #2734, was awarded the Patriot Award from Supreme due to his selfless service in Iraq. Faithful Navigator Brian Engelland made the presentation at the assembly's May social.

Just a reminder, several reports are due to Supreme within the next month. Those reports are as follows:

- 1) Form 2630 - Annual Report of K of C Round Tables
- 2) Form 2863 - RSVP and Plaque Application DUE DATE 6/30
- 3) Form SP-7 - Columbian Award Application DUE DATE 6/30
- 4) Form 185 - Report of Officers Chosen for Term DUE DATE 7/1

The sooner you get these forms in to Supreme the easier it makes it on you. It is one less thing to worry about. Please forward a copy of Form 185 to the State Deputy Larry Tabor, and a copy of Form 2630 to the State Membership Director Martin Bisek.

Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.
Bill Waggoner
State Program Director

PASCAGOULA SCOUT TROOP LOOKING FOR HELP

Brother Knights:

I am a Knight with 1605 (Pascagoula) and am pleading for possible help. I am our Council's Charter Rep for our Boy Scout Troop 230 and I am also the Committee Chairman for Troop 230. Our Troop has a scout hut that is still behind the old KofC Hall in Pascagoula. As you may know, the Hall has been sold along with all its property. The scout hut is an old 10x30 Trailer which sustained a good bit of roof damage during Katrina. We have been looked to relocate the scout hut prior to the storm since our troop has grown substantially since last year and have out grown the trailer we utilize as a hut. We have obtained permission from Father Mike at Sacred Heart to utilize the old library/classroom on the Resurrection Elementary campus which is behind the cafeteria, and at one time this building was used by the KofC's at Sacred Heart. This in an old wooden building that sustained damage from the

hurricane but we believe it is well worth repairing to be utilized as our new scout hut. This building is about 900 sq .ft. has a kitchen and restroom, which we did not have at the trailer. We have begun pulling sheet rock down and pulling up flooring. We also have talked to a contractor to put a pitched tin roof on the building. I am writing to see what assistance, if any, that the Knights might be able to offer to help fix and repair our Troop's new scout hut. We would appreciate any type of assistance, especially, electrical, carpentry, flooring, and painting. You can call me at 623-4809 or e-mail me at kstachowski@jboardatt.com so we can discuss what the KofC's might be willing to assist us with.

VIVAT JESUS!
Kevin Stachowski
Council 1605

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS PLACE 400 FLAGS

A Flag Day Tradition Continues

Local Boy Scout Troops and Cub Scout Dens joined the Bishop Gerow Fourth Degree Assembly of the Knights of Columbus of Jackson, MS., in honoring American veterans of every era by placing small American flags at the gravesites of 400 veterans buried in Cedarlawn Cemetery on West Capitol Street in Jackson on Flag Day June 14, 2006. Continuing a tradition begun last Flag Day, following a short prayer made

by Rev. Dan Gallagher, chaplain of the Sonny Montgomery VA hospital in Jackson, the knights and scouts walked throughout the cemetery pausing to place a flag at the veteran's grave.

Members of the press and public were invited to attend as well as family members of vets buried within Cedarlawn. Some additional flags were made available for those family members who would like to place a flag on their loved ones grave.



STOLEN DATA UPDATE FROM THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION

Secretary Nicholson Provides Update on Stolen Data Incident

WASHINGTON (June 6, 2006) - As part of the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA's) ongoing efforts to determine, to every extent possible, what information was included in the stolen data taken from an employee's home last month, Secretary of Veterans Affairs R. James Nicholson today announced that data stolen on 26.5 million individuals included information on more active-duty military personnel than initial findings indicated.

VA announced over the weekend that information on some active-duty personnel were among the data stolen on up to 26.5 million individuals. Initial findings from VA and the Department of Defense indicated the personal information on approximately 50,000 active duty, National Guard and Reserve personnel may have been involved.

As the two agencies compared electronic files, VA and DoD learned that personal information on as many as 1.1 million military members on active duty, 430,000 members of the National Guard, and 645,000 members of the Reserves may have been included in the data theft.

Law enforcement agencies investigating the incident

have no indication that the stolen information has been used to commit identity theft.

VA receives records for every new accession and military enlistee because active-duty personnel and National Guard and Reservists are eligible to receive certain VA benefits, such as GI Bill educational assistance and the home loan guaranty program.

VA remains committed to providing updates on this incident as new information is learned," said Secretary Nicholson. "The Department will continue to make every effort to inform and help protect those potentially affected, and is working with the Department of Defense to notify all affected personnel."

Secretary Nicholson said VA is currently in discussions with several entities regarding services to determine how veterans and active-duty personnel potentially affected can best be protected.

Those who believe they may be affected can continue to go to www.firstgov.gov for more information on this matter. VA also continues to operate a call center that individuals can contact to get information about this incident and learn more about consumer-identity protections. That toll free number is 1-800-FED INFO. The call center is operating from 8:00 am to 9:00 pm (EDT), Monday-Saturday as long as it is needed.

REFLECTIONS OF OUR STATE CHAPLAIN

Corpus Christi – Not just a city in Texas

Dear brother Knights this coming Sunday we Catholics celebrate the feast of Corpus Christi. Corpus Christi is Latin for Body of Christ. This feast of the Church sets aside the second Sunday after Pentecost every year to reemphasize and celebrate our belief in the Real and Substantial presence of Jesus' flesh and blood in the Eucharist.

I am proud to know that the Knight's of Columbus as an organization has a devotion to the real presence of our Lord under the appearance of bread and wine. But I challenge each of you to embrace anew this mystery of faith. Below I quote what the Church teaches about the Mass and Eucharist. This quote comes from a basic statement of Catholic Doctrine, CREDO OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD by Pope Paul VI.

Sacrifice of Calvary

We believe that the Mass, celebrated by the priest representing the person of Christ by virtue of the power received through the Sacrament of Orders, and offered by him in the name of Christ and the members of His Mystical Body, is the sacrifice of Calvary rendered sacramentally present on our altars. We believe that as the bread and wine consecrated by the Lord at the Last Supper were changed into His body and His blood which were to be offered for us on the cross, likewise the bread and wine consecrated by the priest are changed into the body and blood of Christ enthroned gloriously in heaven, and we believe that the mysterious presence of the Lord, under what continues to appear to our senses as before, is a true, real and substantial presence.

Knights are called to be a brotherhood, a community of faith. The greatest sign of our unity in Faith, our communion as Catholic Christians, is our participation in the Body and Blood of Jesus in the Eucharist – taking communion. Many Churches today have “open communion” anyone is welcome to receive communion in a church. The Catholic Church is not that way because the Eucharist is for us an act of full communion – it is the sign of our unity in the full measure of our common beliefs, in everything from the Trinity to, the real presence of Jesus' Body and Blood in the Eucharist, the reality of the seven sacraments established by Jesus, the hierarchy of the Church, the priesthood and the Creed. But to be in communion means more than a common belief or to be “raised Catholic” it means to have a common living faith – a faith that calls us to a way of life. That way of life includes loving God and neighbor and avoiding sin. God's grace calls us to faith – faith in Jesus. Faith calls us to right living and repentance when we do sin. To repent means “to return” that is to turn to God from sin. To be in full communion a baptized Catholic must not have committed a grave (Serious, Mortal) sin. If we do sin we are called to sacrament confession before receiving communion. Again, I challenge you to examine your lives and your faith. Do you believe in the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist? Do you live a life of faith? Do you receive the Sacrament of reconciliation regularly? Are you truly in communion with the Body of Christ the Church?

Fr. Michael O'Connor
State Chaplain

Anyone planning to attend the State Officers Installation Banquet, Saturday July 8th, in Biloxi, please contact Roger Feters or Noel Aucoin, by June 24th.

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