

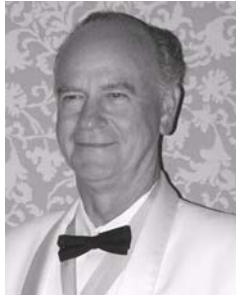


The Magnolia Knight



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Mississippi Knights of Columbus
Editor- Noel Aucoin



State Deputy Danny Lechner

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A WORD FROM OUR STATE DEPUTY

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

As we embark on our 3rd month of the year, we are now # 1 in membership in our region with an increase of 43 new members. This is a great accomplishment. Let's keep Mississippi # 1. I don't know about you, but I get tired of hearing that we are last in everything. Let's keep the momentum going!!!!

In order to keep the momentum, we have to focus on another aspect, RETENTION. If we don't get rid of the "REVOLVING DOOR" effect we can never be successful.

Recently, a brother knight approached me and remarked "We are successful in raising funds for all kinds of worthy causes. Why can't we have a fund raiser to pay a member's dues and invite him to participate?" After thinking about it, I remarked "What a unique idea!" It would lessen the council's financial burden and get an inactive member active. Brothers, we spend a lot of time trying to recruit a new member. Do we put forth as much effort in trying to retain an old one? If we don't get a new member active immediately, we will lose him. Not because he is no good, (God doesn't make junk) but because we let him think that we didn't need or care about him.

Next month, (October) we will be having the October Blitz membership drive. I urge all councils to get their Financial Secretaries to order membership materials, now, in order to be ready.

We recently received the new ICON (Our Mother of Charity). The Icon will be traveling around the state, as soon as the prayer cards are received. Every council will have an opportunity to receive it.

Brothers, I know that you are the BEST Knights in the world. Now let's prove it.

VIVAT JESUS!
Danny Lechner
State Deputy

Upcoming Events

◆ Exemplifications

Thursday 20 Sep 1st Degree
Council 1244 Biloxi

Wednesday 26 Sep 1st Degree
Council 5654 Ocean Springs

Sunday 30 Sep 2nd & 3rd
Degree Council 10443
Granada

Monday 1 Oct 1st Degree
Council 9673 Woolmarket

Saturday 20 Oct 4th Degree
Assembly 3007 D'Iberville

Saturday 21 Oct 4th Degree
Assembly 3081 Olive Branch

◆ Noteworthy Dates

Respect Life Sunday 7 Oct

Columbus Day 8 Oct

Suspension for Non-Payment
of Per Capita Tax 10 Oct

October Family of the Month
Due to Supreme 15 Sep

BRAND NEW FEATURE

Beginning this month the Magnolia Knight will run a series of articles written by our Seminarians, about our Seminarians. The series of articles will be entitled "VOCATIONS FROM THE INSIDE". Please take this opportunity to learn more about the men that will be our Priests, Bishops and Spiritual Leaders

MK Editor
Noel Aucoin

Brother Knights,

We are 8 months away from holding our State convention. At our convention we will be electing delegates to the Supreme convention. Next year's Supreme Convention will be held in Quebec, Canada and any delegate elected will have to have a Pass Port.

Presently, it takes up to six months to obtain a Pass Port. So, if anyone is planning to run for a Supreme Delegate position, you need to apply for a Pass Port soon.

God bless,
Danny Lechner
State Deputy

STATEWIDE RAFFLE ANNOUNCED

The Knights of Columbus Mississippi State Council will launch its second statewide raffle. All proceeds from this raffle will go to the Bishop R. O. Gerow Memorial Fund for seminarian education. The statewide automobile raffle, conducted during the 2006-07 Fraternal Year, netted more than \$52,000 for the Gerow Memorial Fund. State Deputy, Daniel Lechner, announced this second statewide raffle following approval granted at a meeting by the Knights of Columbus Board of Directors, held at the 2007 Supreme Convention last month in Nashville.

This year's raffle will offer three cash prizes instead of an automobile. The holder of the first winning ticket drawn will receive a prize of \$10,000. Additional prizes of \$5,000 and \$2,500 will be awarded to the holders of the second and third tickets drawn. The drawing for this year's raffle will take place at the banquet on April 26th, 2008 during the State Convention in Biloxi.

The State Council has printed 25,000 tickets for the raffle which will sell at \$5 each or five for \$20. With the sale of tickets, the raffle is projected to raise a minimum of \$80,000. These funds will assist with the education of the 17 seminarians that are currently studying for the priesthood for the Catholic Dioceses of Biloxi and Jackson.

"As with last year's raffle, our goal is to supplement funds being raised through our existing Priest Education Fund programs," said State Deputy Lechner. "It is not our intent to replace any program(s) that are traditionally held or planned by any council or assembly to raise funds for seminarian education."

"All funds raised through this raffle will be pooled with monies raised in a variety of other programs as well as proceeds from the earnings of the Christopher Fund and will be presented to Bishop Thomas Rodi of the Catholic Diocese of Biloxi and to Bishop Joseph Latino of the Catholic Diocese of Jackson."

Last year the Knights of Columbus contributed \$117,740 to the Gerow Memorial Fund. Contributions were broken down as follows: \$20,366 from the raffle and \$36,391 in contributions from other programs for the Catholic Diocese of Biloxi and \$31,696 from the raffle and \$29,287 from other fundraising programs for the Catholic Diocese of Jackson.

Brother Lechner has appointed Don Cox of Biloxi to chair the raffle for the Diocese of Biloxi and Deacon Larry Campbell to chair the raffle for the Diocese of Jackson. These responsibilities are in addition to their roles as Church Program Director and State Vocations Chairman, respectively. Tom Chady, PSD, was appointed to assist the two chairmen. Dr. Paul Godspodarski remains as chairman of the Bishop R. O. Gerow Memorial Fund as well as serving as State Master for the Fourth Degree.

Statewide raffles grew out of successful motorcycle raffles held in 2004-05 and 2005-06 by the Picayune Oscar J. Gelphi-St. Charles Borromeo Council 6872. The Madison Council 9543 had the winning ticket for the automobile in 2006-07 but arranged to receive cash in lieu of the automobile. This cash was contributed to various Catholic entities within the Jackson Diocese.

"We are now getting this raffle underway," said Brother Lechner, "because we had to wait until the Supreme Council Board of Directors approved my request for the raffle at its August Board of Directors Meeting, held during the Supreme Convention just concluded in August in Nashville, Tennessee. We are looking forward to another successful raffle and another significant contribution to support the education of the seminarians in our two dioceses."

Raffle tickets will be distributed by State Deputy Lechner, Don Cox, PSD Chady and Deacon Campbell. "Our plan is to have these tickets distributed prior to the end of September", said Brother Lechner. "All instructions and reporting forms will be distributed with the tickets and posted on the state web page."



A HUGE "THANK YOU" TO GRILL'IN FOR LIFE



Birthright of Jackson wishes to express our sincere thanks to all Knight Councils who participated in the recent Grillin' For Life event. Thank you Bassfield Council #6592, Batesville Council #13502, Brandon Council #10216, Jackson Council #848, Madison Council #9543, Pearl Council #8038, St. Therese Council #8285, and Vicksburg Council #898. A special thanks to Gerry Clark and Ben Mokry for including Birthright and doing so much work to make it happen. In our eyes, it is a huge success!

We need the support of dedicated people like all of you who do support women experiencing a crisis pregnancy. The more people, who pray for these women, the fewer women who will choose abortion for their unborn baby. Grillin' For Life and the Mississippi K of C Councils make a difference in the effort to end abortion.

Birthright's goal is to end abortion one pregnant woman at a time. We pray that those girls and women who are concerned about an unplanned pregnancy will find their way to Birthright. At Birthright, she will find a friend who will not judge her or her situation. We focus on her needs first. If she is taken care of, she can take care of her unborn child. We help her mobilize the resources in her community to meet her needs. Then, she can make good decisions for herself and her child.

We always ask, "What do you feel is standing in the way of continuing your pregnancy? What can we do to help you have your child?" Whatever she sees as an obstacle, we help her find a solution so that she will carry her child to term.

Only because of people like you are we able to be available to

these women. Birthright depends totally on the generous support of private donors. We have a modest, comfortable office in South Jackson. With each client who comes through Birthright, we offer her free maternity clothes and information on seeking good healthcare and assistance in whatever she is lacking. After her child is born, we ask her to bring her baby into the Birthright office and we take the baby's picture. Then we give her a huge layout filled with clothing and diapers for her new baby. These are real needs and we are able to fill them with the money we received from Grillin' For Life.

A vital aspect of our service is finding good volunteers. We try to remain open at least four hours a day, five days a week. Unfortunately, we are not always able to do so, due to a shortage of volunteers. Grillin' For Life is essential to helping more people learn about our organization and to become involved. Each year, we meet one or two people who express interest in volunteering with Birthright. The more people who know about Birthright and share news of our service, the better for all the women needing Birthright. Please spread the word to anyone who may be able to help out a few hours a week.

Again, we thank you for your generous support and dedication to Birthright of Jackson -- the only Birthright office in Mississippi. Everyone is invited to see the Birthright office and the pictures of "Our Birthright Babies." We also mail a free newsletter six times a year to help inform people about Birthright of Jackson. We often feature an actual client's story and show more about what we do. Call our office at 601-371-7711.

*Sincerely for Life,
Birthright of Jackson*

COUNCIL 4898 WINS 2nd PLACE IN SERVICE AWARDS AT SUPREME CONVENTION

St. Vincent de Paul Council 4898 in Long Beach took second place for their entry into the Youth Service program for 2006-2007. Their entry "School Cafeteria" won first place in the state competition last year and beat out hundreds of entries from the entire organization to come in second at the 125th Supreme Convention in Nashville, TN. Grand Knight Elvis Gates says it was an honor to lead their council in such a worthy and meaningful cause and was happy to see his council get some recognition internationally for the works they have done in helping their parish and community recover from Katrina.

Their project consisted of helping the St. Vincent de Paul Catholic School in Long Beach attain a way to feed their 300+ school children a hot meal each day. Working with other parishioners, they secured the donation of a 40 foot refrigerated trailer that they then converted into a kitchen. The trailer was positioned alongside an empty portable building the school had purchased for serving the children and to give them a place to sit and eat. The building was then equipped with a serving line, dish washer, sinks, warming boxes and tables that were donated to the Knights for this project.

The trailer was converted from a stainless steel "box" into a full kitchen by running electrical, plumbing, and air ventilation systems in it and then fully equipping it with commercial ovens, stoves, and refrigerators that had been donated as well. The use of the building and kitchen for school kids should be short-lived since their new school is presently under construction and should be ready for occupancy in

2008. The Council's efforts won't go to waste however, because the entire project was constructed in such a way as to make the unit "mobile" for future use as a catastrophe kitchen if needed. In the future, if another area is hit like the Gulf Coast was by Katrina, the council will arrange to take the trailer to the area and serve others.



VOCATIONS FROM THE INSIDE

Servant: A Vocation Story

A vocation to discern the priesthood is a precious gift. I now pursue the exploration of his gift through the will of God, the support of the Diocese of Jackson, the Knights of Columbus Council 1251 and my parents, Beauchamp and Rosy Jones, at Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans, Louisiana. This vocation did not happen overnight. It has taken most of my adult life and two intensive years of discernment before realizing Notre Dame Seminary is where God has called me to be. Reflecting on the life that God has given me, this vocation began when I was a young man. As a young man, for year's, I loved participating in Mass as an altar boy. The memories of that experience are some of the happiest times of my youth. At the time, I did not realize the gift with which I was being presented. I vaguely pursued exploration into discernment by attending a vocations meeting with the Diocese of Jackson during my high school years but quickly dismissed discerning the priesthood. At that time, I believed there was only one way to live life: go to college, find a spouse and make money. It never occurred to me that God might be speaking to me and asking me to consider a life that is counter-cultural: a life focused on serving others and not myself. When I left for college I did the opposite of what my parents and the Church had taught; I began to live life "my way". My "desires" were the main focus of life and I thought I knew what was best for me. I would listen to no one and was determined to live life on my terms. What I was really looking for was happiness but these selfish actions slowly led me to a life of rationalism and materialism. This self-enslavement, which began in college, lasted most of my twenties until I was about twenty-eight.

At the age of twenty-eight I really began to wonder why I existed and what my purpose in this world was. Instead of looking for the next relationship or good time I began searching for a truth in life and in the world. My life until now was wasted on myself. I had helped no one and had hurt the people who had dedicated their lives to my success and happiness. This is also the first time I really fell in love with the foundation that is now my life, our Triune God. This was the truth and I knew it when He found me. In retrospect, God had been whispering softly to me throughout my whole adult life and now again offering me the same gift of vocation He presented to me a decade ago. During this time my interior life grew immensely. I wanted to attend Mass everyday in the morning before work and spend time contemplating in front of the Blessed Sacrament about what God's will was for me. I eventually

contacted Father Kent Bowlds, Vocation Director for the Diocese of Jackson. When I met with Father Bowlds we discussed my prayer life and feelings about discerning a vocation. He was encouraging but asked me to wait six months to see if I still had the same feelings, later as I did at that meeting. Over the next year, I prayed, my feelings grew stronger; I visited religious orders but Father Bowlds and I discerned that God was calling me to discern priesthood for the Diocese of Jackson.

My life now is focused on the Eucharist and Jesus Christ crucified. Our Blessed Mother is essential in my discernment. I constantly seek her intercession to help me understand to what God is calling me. Life in the seminary was a huge adjustment but is wonderful. For the first time in my life I am truly happy. At the present time I am a second year philosophy student and next year, God willing, I will be a first year theologian. While there are a lot of activities with which one can involve himself, a seminarian's time largely consists of studying and praying. With the guidance of our formation directors we also focus on our own development as human beings and understanding ourselves so that we can develop into the best human beings that God intends us to be. We also learn how to develop our interior spiritual lives so that, if God chooses us for priesthood, we can, while living for others, maintain a strong-intimate relationship with God. This relationship allows us to remember that, because a priest acts Persona Christi, a priest is called to serve others through the Sacraments. This is not a right but a gift of which no one is worthy. I trust and pray that through our formation at Notre Dame Seminary we will develop the tools to serve the people of the Diocese of Jackson in ways that are compassionate, loving and true to the teachings of the Church. Humbly I would like to thank Bishop Latino, Vicar General Elvin Sunds and Father Kent Bowlds for the opportunity to study for the Diocese of Jackson. In addition, a special thank you to the Knights of Columbus Council 1251 and to my parents for their support. Please pray for Pope Benedict XVI, Bishop Latino, all the priests of the Diocese of Jackson, the seminarians and for an increase of vocations in the diocese. wishes to express our sincere thanks to all Knight Councils who participated in the recent Grillin' For Life event. Thank you Bassfield Council #6592, Batesville Council #13502,

*Patrick Donohue Jones
Seminarian for the Diocese of Jackson*

REPORT ON RSVP PROGRAM

Some I am pleased to announce that Fr. Dennis Carver, the Vocation Director for the Catholic Diocese of Biloxi, says that all 7 of the Biloxi seminarians have been adopted under RSVP. Fr. Kent Bowlds, the Vocation Director for the Catholic Diocese of Jackson, reports that all 10 of the seminarians in Jackson have been adopted under RSVP. As many of you know, when a seminarian is adopted by a Council, Assembly, Ladies' Auxiliary or Columbian Squires Circle, he receives financial assistance from the adopting Knights of Columbus unit. Let me say, however, that in order to walk the walk and not just talk the talk, when we adopt a seminarian, we must also provide moral support to that individual. This means that we must be willing to remember that seminarian in our prayers. We should also write and visit with the seminarian. It is recommended that we have written communication at least 4 times per year and at least one personal contact per year. In this way, besides providing financial assistance, RSVP creates bonds of friendship between Knights and future priests, many of whom join the Order and become chaplains as a result.

We should invite these men to our activities, particularly those men who are studying nearby or when they return home for a visit. I am including in this report the names and addresses of each seminarian studying for both the Diocese of Biloxi and the Diocese of Jackson. Even though a Knights of Columbus unit may not have financially adopted a specific seminarian, I am encouraging each Knights of Columbus unit to communicate with these men. If you will contact Fr. Carver or Fr. Bowlds, they will be happy to give you these seminarians' birthdates. We can also remember them at Easter, Christmas and Thanksgiving. These men need our support.

Let's all pull together as a State in this endeavor.

SEMINARIAN LIST - DIOCESE OF BILOXI, 2007 - 2008

Jose Vazquez
200 Hill Dr.
St. Meinrad Seminary
St. Meinrad, IN 47577-1031

Ignacio Jimenez
200 Hill Dr.
St. Meinrad Seminary
St. Meinrad, IN 47577-1031

Esteban Garcia
2600 W. Woodlawn Ave.
Assumption Seminary
San Antonio, TX 78228

Ryan McCoy
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St. Meinrad Seminary
St. Meinrad, IN 47577-1031

Marcus Johnson
2115 Summit Ave., Mail #1588
St. John Vianney Seminary
St. Paul, MN 55105-1095

Christopher Hess
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St. Meinrad Seminary
St. Meinrad, IN 47577-1031

Christopher Molino
200 Hill Dr.
St. Meinrad Seminary
St. Meinrad, IN 47577-1031



SEMINARIAN LIST - DIOCESE OF JACKSON, 2007 - 2008

Luke Arredondo
P. O. Box 403
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Lincoln Dall
P. O. Box 429
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Vivat Jesus!
Deacon Lawrence Campbell
State Vocations Chairman