

SCOUTING IN MISSISSIPPI

The following correspondence was sent to State Warden Jim McCraw. It is concerning K of C sponsored Boy Scout Troops or Cub Scout Pack in the state. If your Council or Assembly sponsors or would like to sponsor a troop and/or pack, contact the author of the email.

Jim: The Jackson Diocese has re-established its Catholic Committee on Scouting. Father Elvin Sunds has agreed to serve as Chaplain and Jack Ferran has been elected Chairman. One of our first orders of business is to determine how many Troops and Packs in the Diocese are sponsored by Catholic churches, schools, or Catholic organizations such as the Knights of Columbus.

We are aware that Knights of Columbus Council 7974 sponsors Troop 4 in Columbus; Council 898 sponsors Pack 107 & Troop 7 in Vicksburg; and Council 1034 sponsors Pack & Troop 158 in Natchez. Do you know of any others or could you find out if there are any others in the Diocese?

The Knights of Columbus have had a long relationship with Scouting both nationally and in Mississippi. The Committee would like to reinvigorate this relationship and encourage other local Councils to consider sponsoring new Packs or Troops. The Catholic Committee is going to be setting up meetings around the Diocese with Church leaders and Scouting professionals to talk about the benefits of Scouting for our Catholic youth. It might be helpful if we were able to do something similar at a Statewide meetings of the Knights. The Magnolia Knight Newsletter might also be an appropriate venue for promotion of Scouting to your local Councils. Ben

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FILING REQUIREMENT FOR SMALL TAX-EXEMPT ORGANIZATIONS

Beginning in 2008, small tax-exempt organizations that previously were not required to file returns may be required to file an annual electronic notice, Form 990-N, Electronic Notice (e-Postcard) for Tax-Exempt Organizations not Required To File Form 990 or 990-EZ. This filing requirement applies to tax periods beginning after December 31, 2006. Organizations that do not file the notice will lose their tax-exempt status.

Small tax-exempt organizations, whose gross receipts are normally \$25,000 or less, are not required to file Form 990, Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax, or Form 990-EZ, Short Form Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax. With the enactment of the Pension Protection Act of 2006 (PPA), these small tax-exempt organizations will now be required to file electronically Form 990-N, also known as the e-Postcard, with the IRS annually. Exceptions to this requirement include organizations that are included in a group return, private foundations required to file Form 990-PF, and section 509(a)(3) supporting organizations required to file Form 990 or Form 990-EZ. In addition, this filing requirement does not apply to churches, their integrated auxiliaries, and conventions or associations of churches.

The IRS began mailing educational letters in July 2007 notifying small tax-exempt organizations that they may be required to file the e-Postcard. The IRS is developing an electronic filing system (there will be no paper form) for the e-Postcard and will publicize filing procedures when the system is completed and ready for use. The PPA requires the IRS to revoke the tax-exempt status of any organization that fails to meet its annual filing requirement for three consecutive years. Therefore, organizations that do not file the e-Postcard (Form 990-N), or an information return Form 990 or 990-EZ for three consecutive years, will have their tax-exempt status revoked as of the filing due date of the third year.

If you would like additional information about this new filing requirement, including notification when the filing system is ready, or information about other new developments, subscribe to Exempt Organization's EO Update, a regular e-mail newsletter that highlights new information posted on the Charities pages of irs.gov.

David Scott - State Advocate

OLIVE BRANCH EXEMPLIFICATION ADDS 22 NEW SIR KNIGHTS

OLIVE BRANCH - The first 4th Degree Exemplification in the North Mississippi region in some 20 years attracted a class of 22 men for induction at Olive Branch Queen of Peace and hosted by Our Lady Queen of Peace Assembly 3081.

Sir Knight Dr. Paul Gospodarski of Jackson, Master of the Mississippi District, was among a distinguished group welcoming the inductees in a ceremony honoring Deacon Everell 'Ted' Van Tassel. Sir Knight Van Tassel was a long-time member of St. Paul Cardinal Stritch Assembly 1082 in Memphis before becoming a member of the Olive Branch Assembly. His son, Paul J. Van Tassel, was among those exemplified at the Olive Branch ceremony.

Sacred Heart priests Fr. Terence Langley, SCJ, pastor of Queen of Peace and Faithful Friar of Assembly 3081 and Fr. Ed Zemlik, SCJ, Administrator of St. Gregory's in Senatobia and Sacred Heart in Walls and a member of Southaven Christ the King Fr. Gregory Bezy Assembly 2195, were among those inducted.

Other inductees were Spencer Crow, John Fair, Roy Gaia, Lyle Hennen, James Kessing II, James Peppmuller, Bryan Shaver, Joseph Suhanin and Henry Youd of Our Lady Queen of Peace Assembly 3081; Fred Middleton, Wayne Lovett, Gene Miller and Southaven Hernando DeSoto Council 7021 Grand Knight Dan Bicknell, all of Southaven Fr. Gregory Bezy Assembly 2195; and Albert Jones, Julius Gainspoletti, Brent Robinson, David Duran, James Bradham, James Gainspoletti and Florencio Ybarra of Cleveland Our Lady of Victories Dr. William F. LaForge Assembly 1503.



Region

When you are making out your Christmas card list this year, please include the following:



*A Recovering American soldier
c/o Walter Reed Army Medical Center
6900 Georgia Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20307-5001*

"HELP ME HELP YOU!"



Fr. Kent Bowlds, Vocation Director
Diocese of Jackson

Jerry Maguire, a very popular 1990's Tom Cruise movie about a high-energy sports agent, spawned several memorable, still heard phrases, including "Show me the money," "You had me at hello," and "Help me help you!"—the last one spoken by Cruise's character as he tries desperately to get his only client, a talented but eccentric NFL player, to work more fully with him in the promotion of the player's career.

Without Jerry Maguire's desperation, yet with all of his enthusiasm, that is the same message I have for my brother Knights as I try to "recruit" more men to the priesthood for our diocese (as Fr. Dennis Carver does for the Biloxi Diocese). I want to make sure that you and your children have ample access to all of the Sacraments, especially the Holy Eucharist, to which we are all entitled by our Baptism; that is the single most important help I can give you and your loved ones. Help me help you, by helping promote vocations to the priesthood within your own families.

I appreciate the many ways that many of you are already helping encourage vocations, first by showing your children that our faith is very important to you—by being faithful to weekly mass attendance, praying with your families at meals and other times, participating in the Knights and other parish programs, and letting our faith make a real difference in your everyday dealings and decisions at home and work. As the Rite of Baptism for Children says, you and your spouse are the first and most important teachers of your children in the ways of our faith. Your example and words leave a very deep and lasting impression.

So keep doing all of these things, and more. Invite your sons to think about the priesthood (and your daughters the religious life). Let them know that it is a very worthy "career" choice, or, at the very least, simply encourage them to remain open to wherever and however God might call them someday.

Of course, it is completely natural if you feel some hesitation about doing so. I do not think, as some have said, that vocations are down, in part, simply because parents are discouraging their children to consider the priesthood and religious life because parents are more concerned about their children having lucrative careers and giving them grandchildren someday. Though some parents may have frivolous reasons, I think most want their children to become adults who are strong, secure, happy, and at peace. The hesitation about religious vocations comes from not being sure that children will find fulfillment as a priest/brother/sister.

My own parents did not jump for joy when I first told them I planned to go to seminary! I think my own mother pictured me as an elderly priest living someday in a broken down motor home and traveling between ten different parishes. It was not until after I was ordained for several years and she visited me in my first pastorate did I sense her finally being at peace about my priesthood, once she realized that I was very much at peace and well supported and encouraged by the parishioners.

In fact, recent studies have shown that priests have one of the highest "job satisfaction" rates of any profession; our problems and challenges make the headlines, but as individuals we are happy, for the most part. So as Jesus often said and Pope John Paul II often echoed, "do not be afraid"—that is, to encourage your sons and daughters to consider the priesthood and religious life. As Vocation Director, I cannot do it alone. *Help me help you!*



VOCATIONS FROM THE INSIDE



Meet Charles Macko

"The dust said yes to the rain and they embraced. The clay was created.

The clay was picked up by the Potter and was taken to his barn. In the barn were dishes that the Potter had made from the pieces of clay he had gathered. There were many plates and cups and a few big bowls.

The clay had seen these beautiful things that were made by the Potter's hand. He thought how wonderful it would be if the Potter could make him into a plate so that he could hold the food that fed the Potter. The clay also thought that it would be wonderful to be a cup so that he could hold the water that quenches the Potter's thirst.

The Potter picked up the clay, put him on his molding table and began spinning him. He added water, loosening the piece of clay. The clay began being formed by the Potter's hand. After the spinning stopped the clay was dizzy, but he felt different. He had taken on a new life; but it did not feel like a plate or a cup. He was formed into something that the Potter needed more importantly than a plate or a cup. The clay was formed into a big bowl.

The bowl was confused because it did not want to be a bowl and asked the Potter why he formed him this way. The Potter answered, "When I embraced the dust and you were brought into this world I had one thing in mind. I needed a dish that could hold both food and water; one that could feed the hungry and quench the thirsty. You are just that dish; and I made you big enough so that you could feed the many."

I was born on September 3rd, 1969, in Atlanta, GA. My family and I moved to Brandon, Mississippi in 1977 and I became a member of St. Jude's parish in Pearl. (St. Paul in Brandon had not yet been built.) I graduated from Brandon High School in 1988, and I attended Hinds Community College for two years. During most of my schooling I worked at the local Brandon/Pearl Kroger and Wal-Mart. In 1993 I graduated from The University of Southern Mississippi with a B.S. in Public Communication. After college I moved to Orlando, FL, and for two years worked for the Walt Disney World Co. I was a training coordinator for one of the Disney resort hotels. I moved back to Brandon in 1995 and joined the management team at Wal-Mart. I had been working there for seven years, when, at the age of 33, I resigned to attend Notre Dame Seminary (N.D.S.). God had been calling me since he "knit me in my mother's womb" (Psalm 139:13). He is always calling us to follow his will. That call is our vocation. It is a vocation to the married life, single life, or religious life. I had my own plans for my vocation in life, which were different than what God had in mind for me. Today I am confident God's plan was to form me to be a priest.

He did have a little help in my formation. I was adopted and raised by loving and caring parents. I grew up along side my other adopted brother and sisters. My family, life long friends, teachers in school, bosses at work, the priest and parishioners at St. Jude, all taught me the importance of the Commandments, the Beatitudes, and the Virtues. I learned these important teachings through their words and actions. In 1999 I finally opened my heart to God's personal call. To confirm this calling, I went to talk to a couple of priests at St. Jude. Fr. Ruan and Fr. Cullen suggested that I go talk to the Vocation Director, Fr. Joe Tonas. Fr. Joe knew that I was not quite ready or fully open to live a religious vocation, and he suggested that I give it more consideration. Instead, I began to close myself again to God's call. Two years later, in 2001, I seriously thought about going back to school and pursuing a degree in counseling or teaching. It wasn't until I saw an article on the front page of the Clarion Ledger that I got to thinking about the priesthood again. It was an article and a picture of a Norbertine priest, Fr. Jim Stein. The title of the article was written in BIG, BOLD print: **PRIEST, TEACHER, COUNSELOR**. Not much later, I returned to the Vocation office where Fr. Joe sensed that I was more open to God's call. He then sent me to a Spiritual Director to confirm the call. The following September, I enrolled at N.D.S.

I am currently in my final year of academics. I have learned a lot about Jesus, my Catholic faith, the Church and her teachings. I have learned how universal our Church is by knowing my fellow seminarians and their many different cultural and spiritual backgrounds.

There were times when I thought the spinning from the Potter's molding table would not stop. I admit that getting back to school after a ten year hiatus, moving away from home, and changing my life style, has all been challenging. When I am hit with these challenges, I think of the Latin words that are written above the front door of the seminary: *Deus providebit* (God Will Provide). I have learned to put my full faith in the Potter's hands.

I pray that all of you will discern in prayer the vocation God is calling you to live and that you will also seek spiritual guidance to help discern that call. "Be not afraid", have courage and faith to answer that call. I thank you for your continued prayers and support. May God bless you and may Christ's peace be with you.

Charles Macko

4th DEGREE IN D'IBERVILLE

Eleven KC's became "Sir Knights" of the 4th Degree of the Order on October 20, 2007. The exemplification was held at Sacred Heart Parish and was presided over by Worthy State Master Dr. Paul Gospodarski. In what was a very special detail, Vice Supreme Master Mike Horton participated as part of the degree team. His talk to the candidates was very enthusiastic and well-received.

After the exemplification, the candidates and team attended mass together at Sacred Heart Catholic Church and then had a superb banquet which was organized *(and cooked mainly by,)* *Immediate Past State Deputy Larry Tabor*. The gumbo was excellent as was the company of the new Sir Knights and their spouses. Vivat Jesus!



The 10-20-2007 Class of Sir Knights

2007 ROSARY RALLY

The 2007 Rosary Rally was held on October 21 at St. James Catholic Church in Gulfport. His Excellency Bishop Thomas Rodi presided. Several Gulf Coast Sir Knights provided an honor guard: Color Guard Commanders Leonard Nawlin and Patrick Chubb; Faithful Navigator Robert Delahunt; District Deputy Flitter Roberts; and Sir Knights Lee Helton and Elvis Gates.

2007 PROVINCIAL MEETING HELD IN OCEAN SPRINGS

The 2007 Provincial Meeting of the Bienville Province of the 4th Degree was held in Ocean Springs on October 13, 2007. The meeting was presided over by Vice Supreme Master Mike Horton of Tennessee. 4th Degree leaders as well as State Deputies from Arkansas, Louisiana, Alabama, and Mississippi attended the meeting to discuss membership and other points of business regarding the order.

Seen below is VSM Horton addressing the assembled leadership on goals for the Order. At the conclusion of business, a banquet was held and the tuxedo-adorned Sir Knights as well as other attending KC's enjoyed a delicious meal and great fraternity. Plans for next year's meeting are underway now. Vivat Jesus!



LOOKING FOR OLD PHOTOS

The Home for Council No. 1605, Knights of Columbus, since the mid-40's, is in process of being restored to a Bed & Breakfast and renovated back to it's original condition. The new owners are searching for photo's of the building prior to it being modified by the Knights. Many of the Mississippi's Knights and local's have passed through the halls of this building when initiated or joining in other festivities, such as the annual Carnival Ball.

