

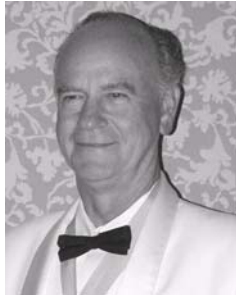


The Magnolia Knight



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Mississippi Knights of Columbus
Editor- Noel Aucoin



State Deputy Danny Lechner

Contents

A Word from our State Dep.	1
A Little Appreciation	2
Vocations from the Inside	2
Raffle Update	3
Volunteers Needed	3
Hernando Golf Tourney	3
To all 4 th Degree Knights	3
New Field Agent Visits	4
Submit Your Write-ups	4
Convention Ad Form	4

A WORD FROM OUR STATE DEPUTY

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

Last week, I was reflecting on what message would be appropriate for this time of the year. The Knights have so many wonderful programs it was hard to settle on one. It came to me this week-end when my Parish Priest, Father Paddy Mockler, approached me. He asked me to preach on the reason Father McGivney formed the Knights of Columbus in the first place. Then, on Monday, I attended the funeral of Fritz Oberlies, former State Master of the Fourth Degree. At his funeral Mass, the Priest talked about the KC's role in taking care of deceased members' families. Father McGivney formed our great organization to take care of widows and orphans of deceased members.

Are we doing that?

When a brother Knight dies, we attend the funeral and show our respects. But, after the funeral, do we stay in touch with the widow and attend to her needs? If you do, God bless you. If not, form a memorial committee and appoint someone as a coordinator to stay in touch with deceased member's widows and families.

4th Degree:

Brothers, we are known as the strong right arm of the church and the 4th degree is the most visible. Sadly, we have not had a 4th Degree exemplification since September 2007. The main reason is that we are not effectively recruiting new members for the 4th degree. Suspensions are our number one enemy in our councils. Statistically, of all members in our order who are 4th degree, there are less than 2% suspended. I urge all Grand Knights to effectively recruit 3rd degree members to join the 4th degree.

Let's get visible!!!

State Convention:

The State convention is quickly approaching. In order for it to be successful, the Convention committee needs your registration and ad forms as soon as possible. If you don't have the forms, they are available on the State Web site. Please don't procrastinate.

Get them in.

State raffle:

The proceeds from the State raffle are coming in very slowly. We owe it to the Seminarians, who have been called by God, to make the raffle successful. Please push ticket sales, not for me but, for them.

I have asked a lot from you, but remember,

You are a Knight!

You can do it!

May God's blessings be with you and your families,

Danny Lechner

State Deputy



Upcoming Events

◆ Exemplifications

Wednesday 26 Mar 1st Degree Council 5654 Ocean Springs

Monday 7 Apr 1st Degree Council 9673 Woolmarket

◆ Noteworthy Dates

Palm Sunday 16 Mar

St. Patrick's Day 17 Mar

Easter Sunday 23 Mar

KOC Day of the Unborn 25 Mar

Founders Day 29 Mar

Best Program Submittals
Due to State Program
Director ASAP

Poster Contest Winners Due
To State Program Director
ASAP

State Program Dir.
Noel Aucoin
14620 Porteaux Bay Dr.
Biloxi, Ms. 39532

A LITTLE APPRECIATION . . .

. . . goes a long way, and I am encouraging my brother Knights to keep up a certain kind of appreciation and to begin doing so if they have not. It could be one of our most effective tools for Vocations and yet it doesn't have to cost a dime. Have you told your priest what a difference he has made in your life?

In a national study, recently ordained priests were asked to identify the major influences upon their decision to consider the priesthood. Most of them ranked the invitation by their pastor, or some other priest, as being the most significant. It was this and other studies which led to the USCCB's creation of the "Fishers of Men" program, which we have held in the Jackson Diocese; it helps priests to come to a greater realization of the tremendous importance of their simple invitation to young men to consider the priesthood. It must go back to that basic fact about all of us humans—we just like to be asked. This explains why you can put an announcement about anything in the bulletin for weeks and weeks with no response, and yet get much better results by picking up the phone and telling individual parishioners, "I think you would be good for . . ."

So what can you do? If all of us need to invite men to consider the priesthood, and yet priests are the most important "inviters," then I think this will require happy priests—not simply priests who go around smiling all the time (although that can't hurt) but priests who have a real sense of how much they are appreciated, priests who have been made aware of the positive difference they have made and are making in the lives of their parishioners. It is those priests, I think, who will be the most apt to invite

others to seriously consider following in their footsteps. Common sense tells us that one who has been told he has chosen the right path will MORE readily invite someone else to follow him.

Of course, this does not mean one has to ignore or deny the faults all of us priests have; we are as in need of salvation as any human being. It simply means an occasional brief and honest comment, spoken or in a short written note, about how one appreciated the priest's ministry—"Father, I'll never forget how relieved I felt when you came into my wife's hospital room," or "Father, you might not realize how a point you made in a homily once made a difference in my job that week." Speaking from personal experience, I can assure you that such comments ("Father, we are praying for you all") really helped us priests during the height of the recent national priest scandals.

As I said, it doesn't have to cost anything or become a grand council program; a little will go a very long way. Speaking on behalf of all my brother priests, thank you for the opportunity you give us to become a part of the most significant moments of your lives, and for the way you already encourage us through your faith, hope, and love. And, as always, I really appreciate the way our Knights give such tangible and spiritual support for Vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Thanks, and God bless.

Fr. Kent Bowlds Vocation Director
www.jacksonvocations.com



VOCATIONS FROM THE INSIDE

Born in Jackson, I am a cradle Catholic, and, by the grace of God, attended Catholic schools until college. On top of this, my parents always made sure I went to Mass. So I have been surrounded with our wonderful beliefs and privileges as Catholics. In fact, at a young age, I would dress up and play priest with my brothers, saying Mass for my family. My mom made us vestments and we put together all of the books ourselves!

Two priests who were at Saint Richard for all of the seven years I attended its elementary school definitely stand out in my memory. Father Richard Sommers, as my pastor, always had a smile on his face and was ready to shake my hand after Mass. Also, Monsignor Michael Glenn would always walk the halls. He always had the love of Christ on his face and a stack of prayer cards in his hand. Another figure in my life has been Father Brian Kaskie, who was chaplain of Saint Joseph Catholic School in Madison. He was there from before my seventh grade year through my junior year. Father Brian has always been good to me, offering much guidance throughout my time of discernment.

I could go on forever about every priest I have encountered in my life and the impact they have had on my life. But in the many different ways that they have influenced me, one thing draws them all together—a desire to conform themselves to Christ so that they could bring him to life in our diocese. So many wonderful men over the years have given their lives so that Christ may be seen in real life around our wonderful state. And in following their lead, the ten of us seminarians have chosen to do the same with our own life.

I first started to seriously recognize my call to the priesthood at 17 years old while I was preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation during my junior year of high school. I was learning how to become a mature Catholic Christian and was noticing the need to discern just how I was to live out my Catholic faith, especially as a resident of Protestant Mississippi. Of course I had dreamed of making it big in the business world, partially because business seems to be in my blood, especially coming from the family of Jackson's S.N. Thomas & Sons. But at the same time, doing work for the Church also runs in my family. Along with his brothers, my grandfather Leon was extremely active in St. Mary Parish and later St. Richard Parish, both in Jackson. He was also very active in the founding of St. Dominic Hospital. So one can see just how many influences were coming into my life and how many possible directions I had to steer my life.

After graduating high school, my parents and I decided that it would be best for me to spend time at a major university first, before entering seminary. So I went off to Mississippi State University, joined Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity, and entered the International Business program. But after two

years, none of my classes were really appealing to me as a possible future. The best time I was having seemed to be as the sacristan for a weekday and a Sunday Mass at St. Joseph Parish in Starkville, as well as the time I spent with the Catholic Student Association. I was also meeting with Fr. Jeffrey Waldrup either personally or through the discernment group he led for MSU students. So after two years at MSU, I decided to transfer to St. Joseph Seminary College (St. Ben's) in Covington, LA, beginning my time as a Seminarian.

I do not know for sure if I will be ordained a priest in 2010. Only God knows what can happen between now and then. But what I do know is that ever since beginning at St. Ben's and then moving to Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans for theology, I have loved all of the classes I am taking and truly felt that I was finally working towards a profession in which I could spend the rest of my life.

But we all know that the priesthood is more than just a profession. It is a life! The priest is not just asked to give a portion of his day to make sure that everything in the parish is running smoothly. Rather, he is called to give himself entirely to bring to life Christ for the people of God. He is to guide Christ's flock 24/7, offering the food they need to fill their spiritual hunger. And this is what makes me so fired up about being in seminary and the idea of becoming a priest for the people of Mississippi. God has been so great to me and my family. He has filled me with so much joy over the years that I cannot help but wish to spread this joy to as many people as possible, bringing more people back into the pews of our parishes or even into those pews for the first time!

Brother Knights, I ask for all of your prayers and truly thank you for all of your support! Ever since joining the Knights of Columbus while at MSU, and after experiencing all four degrees of our extraordinary brotherhood, I have considered myself fortunate to know such an amazing group of men and their families! I pray for our brotherhood constantly so that it may grow, and that its members may always actively support the priesthood of our diocese and strive to find more young men willing to serve Christ and his Church!

Scott Thomas
Seminarian
Catholic Diocese of Jackson



STATE WIDE RAFFLE UPDATE

Gentlemen,

Here is the first complete financial report on the State-Wide Cash Raffle. As you can see, only two (2) councils in the Diocese of Biloxi and ten (10) councils in the Diocese of Jackson have turned in tickets, reports and money on this year's Raffle. This represents 12 councils or only 20% of our jurisdiction's total number of councils. Although a lot of our proceeds will be reported between now and the Convention, we must pick up the pace on our Raffle ticket sales. It was anticipated that our total sales would be approximately \$80,000 for the year and total expenses of approximately \$20,000 for the year. Had these numbers been achieved or if they are achieved, we hoped to have at least a \$60,000 net profit. With the growing number of seminarians and the increasing costs of educating these seminarians, we know that Bishop Rodi and Bishop Latino need our assistance more than ever and are counting upon us. We must do our best to meet our goal. Let's all try to make the next 6 weeks the best 6 weeks for the Raffle.

Vivat Jesus

Deacon Larry Campbell
Raffle Chairman

Don Cox
Raffle Chairman

Catholic Diocese of Jackson

Catholic Diocese of Biloxi

VOLUTEERS NEEDED

The Special Olympics Summer Games are going to be held at Keesler May 16-18, Friday mid-day thru early Sunday morning. Volunteers will be needed. In addition to needing volunteers to assist in the games (time keepers, huggers, etc), we would like to see the 4th Degree dress out for the opening ceremonies Friday evening. We had about 10 Knights in their regalia last year and they were a big hit with the athletes. Here is an opportunity for our Knights along the coast to participate in a very worthwhile event enabling them to report their volunteer efforts in the KC & Special Olympics Partnership. Holler if you need more info.

Larry J. Tabor, YA-02, DAF
Wing Plans and Programs
81 TRW/XP
Keesler AFB MS 39534
DSN 597-3062 - Comm (228-377-3062)



Financial Report on State-Wide Cash Raffle Catholic Dioceses of Biloxi & Jackson March 12, 2008

Income

Diocese of Biloxi

Council/Assembly

6872
10499

City

Picayune
Ocean Springs
Total Income - Biloxi

Amount

606
1,115
1,721

Diocese of Jackson

Council/Assembly

802
848
5556
6765
7120
8038
10216
11934
13502
14051

City

Madison
St. Peter/St. Richard
Cleveland
Starkville
Southaven
Pearl
Brandon
Gluckstadt
Batesville
Olive Branch
Total Income - Jackson

Amount

1,000
870
180
730
635
355
500
340
155
145
4,910

Grand Total Income (Biloxi & Jackson) 6,631

Expenses

Prizes
Printing/Shipping

17,500
723

Total Expenses 18,223
Over(Short) (11,592)

Submitted by:

Don Cox
Raffle Chairman
Catholic Diocese of Biloxi

Deacon Larry Campbell
Raffle Chairman
Catholic Diocese of Jackson

HERNANDO DESOTO COUNCIL GOLF SCRAMBLE TAKING SHAPE

SOUTHAVEN - The 2nd Annual Hernando DeSoto Council 7120 golf tournament, a four-person scramble, is scheduled for 1 p.m. Sunday May 18 at Wedgewood Golfers' Club in Olive Branch.

This year's tournament features an all-in-one price, with range balls, golf, cart, two mulligans, a red tee and two drink tickets all included in the \$125 individual/\$500 team entry fee. New this year is a hand toss from off the green, which also is part of the entry fee.

Outback Steakhouse of Southaven again will sponsor the Awards Dinner at the Christ the King Parish Hall. The event, which begins at 7 p.m., again will serve as an appreciation dinner for priests and religious.

Country Ford of Southaven returns as a corporate sponsor this year, contributing a Ford Taurus for the person making a hole-in-one on Wedgewood's par 3 4th hole.

More information and entry forms are available from Fred Middleton, 662-449-0053, fredmiddleton@comcast.net.

TO: ALL MISSISSIPPI FOURTH DEGREE MEMBERS

Remember that Sir Knights wear regalia and carry the sword to honor Christ and His Apostles (page 1 of KC Fourth Degree Color Corps Drill Manual). At this year's state convention in Biloxi, there will be several opportunities for Sir Knights to honor Christ and His Apostles by:

- (1) Participating in the Mississippi District Honor Guard Competition to be held on Friday, April 25th at 2:30 PM;
- (2) Participating in the honor guard for the awards banquet on Saturday April 26th evening as state officers and their spouses are welcomed and seated; and by
- (3) Participating in the honor guard for Holy Mass on Sunday morning, April 27th.

All worthy Sir Knights are encouraged to make their plans now to attend the Convention and are reminded to BRING THEIR TUX AND REGALIA. Information about the convention is available on the state Website.

Vivat Jesus!

Paul

NEW FIELD AGENT VISITS

Hernando DeSoto Council 7120 Grand Knight Dan Bicknell (left) welcomed Juan Corrigan (right), Mississippi's new field agent for the Northern districts of the state. Corrigan assumed his duties last month and was a guest at the Council's March meeting. He was joined by General Agent Jerry Woods (center) of Cleveland. Corrigan is based in Starkville, where he is a 3rd Degree member of St. Joseph Parish's Father John P. Egan Council 6765. He says the best way to reach him is via cell phone - 662-312-5441. His email address is jcorri@aol.com



Submit your write-ups

Brothers,
Please submit your "Best Program", "Knight of the Year" and "Family of the Year" write-ups as soon as possible. These can be sent to me electronically at noel.aucoin@ngc.com or noel_aucoin@bellsouth.net. Hard copies can be mailed to Noel Aucoin, 14620 Porteaux Bay Dr. Biloxi, Ms. 39532. Don't forget your final activity "Check-off" sheets were due on March 15th.

*Please get these in ASAP.
Noel Aucoin
State Program Director*



**MISSISSIPPI STATE COUNCIL
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS 104th ANNUAL STATE CONVENTION
APRIL 25-27, 2008**

ADVERTISEMENT ORDER FORM

Please provide the following information:

<u>Size of Ad</u>	<u>Cost</u>	
_____ Full page	\$100.00	_____ Copy of material attached & enclosed
_____ Half page	\$65.00	_____ Copy of material will follow
_____ Quarter page	\$45.00	_____ Check enclosed

Please furnish name of ad Point of Contact: _____

Submitted by: (Council/Assembly No.) _____

(Council, company, individual) Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Note: Copy material should be camera ready. Printed program will be in black and white.

Request for ads and payment must be received not later than **March 15, 2008**.

Make checks pay-able to: 2008 KC Convention Committee

You can email me your ad if you like: Lndtabor@cableone.net

Mail copy material and check(s) to: Larry J. Tabor
Immediate Past State Deputy
Convention Ad Booklet Co-Chair
9601 Blossman Dr
Biloxi, MS 39532