

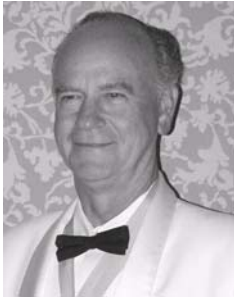


The Magnolia Knight



May 2008
Volume 08, Issue 05

Mississippi Knights of Columbus
Editor- Noel Aucoin



State Deputy Danny Lechner

A WORD FROM OUR STATE DEPUTY

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

I was thrilled to see my Brother Knights at our State convention in Biloxi. The convention, I thought, went very well. Many Councils received well deserved awards. We had productive meetings and, as a bonus, got to share quality time with each other. The convention committee deserves our thanks for a job well done.

With our State convention behind us, we have started a new State year. I feel that this year will be the best ever. However, in order for us to accomplish this, we have to improve on membership retention and report submission. We can and will accomplish this through planning and training. We will disclose the plans at the Schools of Columbianism.

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The schedule for Schools of Columbianism will be:

Southern Region - July 13, at Our Lady of Fatima in Biloxi

Northern Region - July 19, in Batesville

Central Region - July 20, at St. Richard in Jackson

The meetings will be from 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

On a personal note, I would like to thank everyone for their support this past year and their vote of confidence for the coming year. I pledge to you to do my best for you and the Mississippi Knights of Columbus and will not be a

"Lame Duck" State Deputy.

*May God's blessings be with you and your families,
Danny Lechner
State Deputy*

Upcoming Events

◆ Exemplifications

Wednesday 28 May 1st Degree
Council 5654 Ocean Springs

Thursday 22 May 1st Degree
Council 1244 Biloxi

Saturday 14 June 1st, 2nd, 3rd
Degree Council 10499, Ocean
Springs

Saturday 12 July 4th Degree
Assembly 3007 D'Iberville

◆ Noteworthy Dates

Memorial Day 26 May

Flag Day 14 June

Father's Day 15 June

Columbian Award App. (#SP-7)
Due 30 June

RSVP App. (#2863) Due 30 June

Change in leadership

As our State Deputy, Brother Daniel Lechner, announced at this year's State Convention, Dr. Paul Gospodarski has resigned as Chairman of the Bishop R. O. Gerow Memorial Fund, effective Monday, April 28, 2008, due to his declining health. Brother Lechner has named Dr. Paul as Chairman Emeritus of this Fund. Brother Lechner also announced that Deacon Larry Campbell was appointed the new Chairman. All future correspondence and/or checks should be sent to Deacon Campbell and a copy forwarded to Dr. Paul.

At the final Business Meeting, when this leadership change was announced, Deacon Campbell suggested that rather than telephoning Dr. Paul or e-mailing him, that a personal thank you letter/card be mailed to him. Such a personal thank you would be more appropriate than a telephone or electronic message. Dr. Paul's mailing address is:

Dr. Paul Gospodarski
4048 Venus Ave.
Jackson, MS 39212

Your cooperation in this endeavor would be greatly appreciated by Dr. Paul, his wife Cathy, our State Deputy, Brother Danny Lechner, and Deacon Campbell.

**A Fourth Degree Exemplification is planned in Starkville for
Saturday September 27th -Honoree will be**

State Master Paul Gospodarski.

DON'T THANK ME!

From time to time, either from my brother priests or from good lay people throughout the diocese, I hear something like, "How many seminarians do you have? You are doing a good job, Fr. Kent!"

I appreciate the appreciation, but instead of making me feel good it reminds me how much work we vocation directors have to do to help vocations promotion become more and more the "job" of every single Catholic-clergy, religious, and laity. I am really and truly only as good as the referrals I get from parishioners and priests throughout the diocese, and I am only the tip of the proverbial iceberg when it comes to inviting men and women to consider the priesthood and religious life. If a man asks for an application to become a seminary candidate for our diocese, it is often the result of many people encouraging him, sometimes over the course of many years, by telling him that he should consider the priesthood.

This can happen in many ways and settings. For example, when families say grace before meals, parents can ask the Lord for more priests and religious and for their own children to remain open to the idea of a vocation in the church. Priests can provide a positive role model and regularly invite altar servers to consider the priesthood. Teachers and youth group leaders can make sure the topic of vocations is discussed regularly, and keep an eye out for those young men and women who show

leadership and enthusiasm in matters of faith and service. Parishes can pray for vocations, such as through a weekly chalice-in-the-home program or during hours of Eucharistic Adoration, and give parishioners a way to submit the names of potential seminary candidates.

Besides the obvious fact that I cannot be present enough throughout the 65 counties of our diocese to become aware of potential candidates, our faith is very much a communal endeavor, not just a "me and Jesus" experience. We are saved by God through Christ within a faith community which celebrates the sacraments together; even private Confession happens through a priest who represents not only Christ but the whole Christian community. Priests and religious receive their call in that same context of community. I would never consider a potential candidate for seminary without finding out how he has lived his faith as part of a parish family. And so for seeing those who might have church vocations, the very best eyes we have are those of the laity, ministers, and pastors who make up our faith communities.

I'll know my job as Vocation Director has been fully successful when I overhear Catholics saying, "Look how many seminarians we have now! We are doing a good job!"

Fr. Kent Bowlds
Vocation Director
Diocese of Jackson
www.jacksonvocations.com



VOCATIONS FROM THE INSIDE

Most vocation stories begin with a young man living his life his own way, doing what he wants to, trying to set his own path in life. Mine certainly falls under that category.

Growing up, my parents always took me to Mass and CCD classes. I went willingly most of the time, and sometimes just because I had to. Eventually I began to like the idea of church, but not in the way of a career or a lifestyle, just as a place to go on the weekends.

In school, I seemed to have found something that I was called to do. I was a musician and, just like my father and mother, chose the trumpet as my instrument. By the time I was in high school, I was sitting high in all of the all-state bands. I took lessons from a symphony player and even made some high-profile contacts in the trumpet world. It seemed like everything was going great and I decided to pursue trumpet studies in college. After earning a full-scholarship and out-of-state waiver, I embarked on a journey that has taken me places I never thought I'd go. I entered college at Florida State University in the fall semester of 2002.

Before I went to college, I overheard a speaker at my home parish saying "when you go to college, you know, you'll loose your faith and fall away from the Church for a while, but most people do, you'll come back..." Now, I never confronted this speaker, and it's entirely possible that I heard an out-of-context statement, but since this was all I heard as I walked through the parish hall, I was shocked. I couldn't believe somebody saying that it's regular and even expected to "lose the faith" while in college. I made a decision that instant that I would, at all costs, avoid this "common" phenomenon. I was blessed to find a terrific Catholic Student Union (CSU) at FSU. There were 15 on-campus Bible studies throughout the week, a weekly conference with a religious or priest, retreats every semester, football game barbeques, etc. Being three states away from anybody I had ever met in my life, it was a good place to set a foundation. I found myself growing in the faith, rather than losing it.

As time went on and I met more people at school, I began having friends of my own and didn't feel the absolute necessity to hang out with people from the church. The academic career of a music major isn't much, but the time constraints of rehearsals, recital attendance, and practicing (3 hours a day!) can be quite draining. By my junior year I wasn't as involved in the CSU, but I still went on the retreats and played for Mass every week. It was this time that God chose to speak to me, though I had Him tuned out for quite a while.

My trumpet playing, the only thing I was really concerned with in the long-term, began to disappear. It's hard to describe what happened, and I still haven't really figured it out. The best way to describe it would be to use a sports analogy. Imagine feeling like you could be the next Tiger Woods, provided that you kept progressing at a constant level. Then, you realize one day that you're in a slump. And somehow, this slump spirals out of control,

and you can't seem to find any of that talent you thought you had. Well, this is what was going on with me. I was at school on a huge scholarship because an area about the size of a quarter on my face used to work really well for playing trumpet. When this stopped working, I felt completely lost. I searched for answers and changed trumpet teachers at school. I tried a summer program where I studied with one of the world's best trumpet players. From time to time, I'd think I was getting better. But, the bottom line was that I was not making progress. Eventually, the professor at school told me I needed to reconsider my future. This was an all-time low.

During Christmas break of my senior year at FSU, I had some down time to reflect and realized something. I asked myself "Whatever happened to all that time I used to spend at CSU? And that goal I had of never losing my faith? What happened to the peace that I had in my life?"

I was asking big questions, and knew that the only answer was in my Catholic faith. I decided that, no matter what, I would return to all the CSU activities I'd been "too busy" for. Three weeks into the spring semester, I wasn't so concerned with my trumpet playing; at least I didn't see it as an imminent disaster. I had peace. Then, at a conference, one of the Brothers from the Brotherhood of Hope did a talk on discernment. In a room with 200 people, it's pretty easy to shrink into the crowd. But this night, it seemed like he was talking directly and only to me. I walked away and was shaken; it seemed like God was trying to get a message to me. I poured myself even more into the CSU events, going to Mass on Saturday mornings, praying at an abortion clinic, going to adoration, listening to EWTN radio, etc. I was reading Pope Benedict's encyclical and doing Google searches on "seminary" "priest requirements," etc.

Well, I sat down and talked with a Brother at FSU and he explained to me the typical formation process. I had decided that I needed to talk with somebody in the Diocese once I got out of school for the year. During my spring break, I visited Fr. Don Derivaux, who shared his own story with me. My parents began to suspect that I was up to something. After my fourth year at FSU was done, my scholarships expired. I was without a degree because I'd changed majors late into my time there, but I wasn't worried. I set up a meeting with the vocation director, Fr. Kent Bowlds, and from there, things moved swiftly.

My time in seminary has been a blessing and I'm thankful for all those who have supported me; particularly, my parents, Fr. P.J. Curley, Council 898, Vicksburg, Fr. Don Derivaux, and Fr. Kent Bowlds.

If you find yourself looking for peace in your life and don't know where to find it, slow down and listen: God may be calling you. God Bless,

Luke Arredondo
Seminarist
Catholic Diocese of Jackson



FIRST EVER HONOR GUARD COMPETITION COUNCIL 5654, OCEAN SPRINGS IN ACTION

The Jurisdiction of Mississippi held its first, ever, 4th Degree Honor Guard Competition, at this State Convention. The event was held Friday afternoon, April 24 in the IP resort ballroom "D". The inaugural winners were from the Sir Knight Eugene T Hicks Assembly 2734, Starkville, Columbus & West Point.



The winning team is from the Sir Knight Eugene T. Hicks Assembly of Starkville/Columbus/West Point, and includes (1st row from left) Mike Kassouf, Howard Ferguson, Dennis Hilbert and John Upchurch. District marshals served as competition judges and include (2nd row, from left) Ken Broussard, John Leonhard, Wayne Ebelhar, Bill O'Connor and Brian Engelland. The winning team successfully performed 25 elements involving the manual of the sword and church drill commands.

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The Knight of Columbus Council 5654 and St. Alphonsus School joined in together Sunday May 4th to help one of our School Cafeteria Worker and Day care attendant. Debbie Tootle and her Husband Doug. Doug has been in the Hospital and rehab for several months.

We served A chicken Dinner. We will be able to donate them about \$2000. Thanks to the good people that came out for this worth while Benefit. We had a lot of members from St. Alphonsus just give donations.

The next project Council 5654 will be, May 7th we will be building a Handy cap ramp for one of our decease member wife.

May 10th and 11th. We will sell Roses and all of the Profit will go to Morning Star, which we have done for about 20 years.

Then we go to Dedeaux Hilton to cook for the Deacon candidates on May 17th.

Last, for the Month of May, we will spend the week end selling Tootsie Rolls for the mentally Challenge.

Respectfully Submitted
Carl Brochard
Grand Knight Council 5654



BRANDON BEGINS ANOTHER BANNER YEAR

Council 10216, Brandon kicked-started another Fraternal year and it promises to be just as productive as years past. The award winning Council has already hosted a Founder's day celebration for St. Paul's. During which, they entertained Fr. Burke Masters, Vocations Director of Joliet, Illinois. Fr. Masters is also a former star infielder for the Mississippi State Bulldogs and is featured in the SEC Character Commercials.

Council 10216 would like to thank Madison Council 9543 for preparing the meal for this event.

The council has also sponsored a combination Mother's Day Breakfast and benefit baby shower. The Knights served almost 270 breakfasts and raised over \$600 in cash. In addition to the cash, over \$2000 of baby products were donated and distributed to the local Pro-life organization, Birthright.



From left PGK Ted Gray, Father Burke Masters, GK Mike Brechtel



From left) Mike Brechtel GK St Paul 10216, LaVerne Finley, President of Birthright Jackson

Central Region

NEW VERITAS BOOKLETS IN 2008

The following is a listing of the New Veritas Booklets available in 2008 from the Catholic Information Service:

- Becoming a Real Man of God (322)
- Cohabitation Before Marriage (308)
- Dating: A Practical Catholic Guide (311)
- The Danger of Pornography (323)
- Understanding Stem Cell Research (326)
- What Catholics Should Know about Islam (317)
- Catholic Word Book (371)
- Faith: Q & A (390)
- Prayer Time (309)

For 60 years, the Knights of Columbus has brought the teachings of the Catholic Church to millions through easy-to-read booklets published by the Catholic Information Service. New titles are being added to our catalog regularly, all aimed at helping you understand more completely the richness of the Catholic faith. Several of these new titles are listed below and through this one-time offer you can order the booklets that interest you AT NO CHARGE. I hope you avail yourself of this opportunity today.

Knights of Columbus
Catholic Information Service
P. O. Box 1971
New Haven, CT 065211
203-752-4267
www.kofc.org/cis
cis@kofc.org

RSVP Form Due

The Refund Support Vocations Program Refund/Plaque Application (#2863), found on the Order's Web site and in the *Council Report Forms Booklet* (#1436), must be completed and submitted to the Supreme Council office between now and June 30. The canceled check for the donation must be attached to the application. Applications without copies of the canceled check(s) or proof of a check being cashed by a recipient will not be honored. Councils must submit the application to qualify the refund and/or the plaque award. Please contact Deacon Larry if you have any questions.

WHAT IS THE BISHOP R. O. GEROW MEMORIAL FUND?

In the early 1950's the Knights of Columbus established the **Bishop R. O. Gerow Memorial Fund**. This memorial fund was established to raise monies to assist the Diocese of Natchez-Jackson with the education of seminarians. In 1978 the State of Mississippi was divided into two separate dioceses. The 17 counties near the Gulf Coast became the Diocese of Biloxi and the 65 counties in northern Mississippi were renamed from the Diocese of Natchez-Jackson to the Diocese of Jackson. During all this time, since 1953, the Knights of Columbus have continued to raise monies to aid our dioceses with the cost of seminarian education. Throughout these years the Mississippi Jurisdiction has raised in excess of **\$1.6 million** and given these monies to our bishop(s) for this purpose. We have become the "envy of the eye" of many jurisdictions in the country for the success we have had in this endeavor.

Throughout these some 55 years, the **Bishop R. O. Gerow Memorial Fund** has become known by a number of different names. Some of these are: *The Priest Education Fund, the Priest Education Fund To Assist With Seminarian Education* as well as the *Seminarian Education Fund*. In some councils, it may have even taken on other names, but throughout these many years the fund still remains the **Bishop R. O. Gerow Memorial Fund** as established by resolution of the Mississippi Jurisdiction, as I said in the early 1950's.

My purpose for pointing this out is to simply clarify, for some, a little of the history on the Fund. It is certainly not to create any problems that might interfere in any way with the good works and successes of the many thousands of knights, ladies, squires, families and individuals who have worked so tirelessly throughout the years to help our bishops with the ever increasing costs involved with the education of our "future shepherds" who have given, and continue to give their lives, in service to our Church in Mississippi, by serving in the Priesthood.

If in your area, the **Gerow Fund** has taken on one or more of these other names, that's fine, as long as our good works continue. The challenge ahead for us now is to find additional ways to increase the levels we can raise for our dioceses to meet the ever increasing costs of educating these men who will be our *shepherds* in the years to come. I certainly do not have the answer(s), but I am looking for ways in which our Order can be of even greater assistance with the ever mounting financial burdens placed upon the Diocese of Biloxi and the Diocese of Jackson. If anyone has any new ideas or thoughts, please let me know.

In closing, let me say thank you to the Knights who have preceded me as Chairman of the **Bishop R. O Gerow Memorial Fund**, not to mention the thousands, living and deceased, who have help raise that \$1.6 Million over the past 55 years.

Vivat Jesus!
Deacon Larry Campbell
State Chairman
Mississippi Jurisdiction

The State Co-ceremonial Chairmen...

Would like to impress upon all degree personnel, the importance of maintaining the highest level of memorization possible. This will ultimately enhance the effectiveness for all Brother Knights in attendance.

Vivat Jesus
Rich Lieding
Tom Chady

Attention all local Councils and Assemblies

If you have NOT already done so, you should take immediate action to file an IRS Form 990 as the new federal requires ALL charitable/non-profit organizations to comply. The 2 attached documents are for your information.

Filing deadline is 15 May 2008 if your activity's financial year closed out 31 Dec 2007. It depends on the amount of your gross receipts which Form 990 you use. If less than \$25,000, you can file the easy to use Epostcard 990; more than \$25,000 use the applicable Form 990. This is very important—failure to file could result in a fine and/or loss our your council/assembly losing its non-profit status. Contact IPSD Larry Tabor if you have any questions.

CHECK SECOND ATTACHMENT PLACED IN THIS MAGNOLIA KNIGHT EMAIL. IT IS THE AUTHORIZATION FORM FROM SUPREME.

REPORT ON BISHOP R. O. GEROW MEMORIAL FUND 2007-2008

Diocese of Biloxi

Council/Assembly Auxiliary/Other	Location	Amount
1244	Biloxi	1,000
1908	Hattiesburg	2,756
2180	Laurel	5,000
4898	Long Beach	4,000
5654	Ocean Springs	300
6872	Picayune	6,034
7087	Kiln	1,000
7211	Lumberton	500
9094	D'Iberville	500
9124	Gautier	1,000
9409	Biloxi	1,000
9958	Gulfport	200
11541	Gulfport	500
11654	Wiggins	1,120
11956	Tylertown	610
11995	Pass Christian	100
13936	Columbia	1,100
563	Laurel Assembly	100
2059	Ocean Springs Assembly	150
2227	Picayune Assembly	3,370
9094	D'Iberville Auxiliary	500
13936	Columbia Auxiliary	200
----	Mini Raffle	120
----	Christopher Fund (2008)	1,334
----	Statewide Cash Raffle	18,320
Total - Diocese of Biloxi		50,814

Diocese of Jackson

802	Meridian	2,000
848	Jackson (St. Peter/St. Richard)	1,000
898	Vicksburg	3,004
1034	Natchez	1,500
2134	Greenville	1,200
2945	Leland	500
5267	Greenwood	1,005
5556	Cleveland	1,000
6765	Starkville	500
7120	Southaven	1,000
7854	Clinton	500
7915	Brookhaven	1,500
7974	Columbus	100
8038	Pearl	100
8054	McComb	1,600
8848	Tupelo	1,000
8912	Corinth	250
9543	Madison (2007)	5,000
10443	Grenada	1,550
11934	Gluckstadt	1,637
14051	Olive Branch	100
----	Mini Raffle	120
----	Christopher Fund (2007)	831
----	Christopher Fund (2008)	1,334
----	Other	45
555	Greenville/Leland Assembly	1,000
558	Vicksburg Assembly	1,300
1251	Meridian Assembly	500
1503	Cleveland Assembly	200
2195	Southaven Assembly	200
2269	Brandon Assembly	400
2734	Starkville/Columbus Assembly	600
2913	Corinth Assembly	250
2916	Grenada Assembly	100
3081	Olive Branch Assembly	100
----	Statewide Cash Raffle	22,995
Total - Diocese of Jackson		56,521

Total - Biloxi and Jackson 107,335