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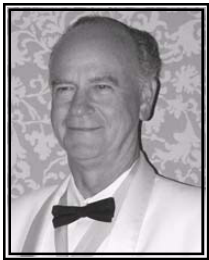


Mississippi Knights of Columbus
Fred Middleton, Editor

**Silver Rose in Hand; Tribute
To Sanctity of Life and Vocations**
By Daniel 'Danny' Lechner

This month, I will keep my comments short. Mainly because my PC is down and I have problems using a laptop.

Today, we received the Silver Rose for the Silver Rose Run. We will have it for only three weeks before having to turn it over to Arkansas. Unfortunately, due to the time restraint, many councils will not be able to see it. It is beautiful and the meaning it bears is astonishing. It is the symbol of the sanctity of life and a tribute to vocations.



The International Running of the Silver Rose is a devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of the Americas and of the unborn, that was started by Squires in 1960.

October is the month for the October "Membership Blitz Drive." It is not meant to take the place of year-round recruitment, but a stimulus. Councils need to immediately order the October blitz kit from Supreme in order to have the materials in time for the drive.

Upon completion of your drive, notify your District Deputy with the results. Please remember the hurricane victims in your prayers, submit your reports, and update the State Directory.

May God bless you and your family,

Increased Membership Equals Greater Accomplishment
By Fred Middleton, Editor

The Mississippi District contributed 229 new members to help Supreme reach a record membership of 1,763,182 in the 2007-08 Fraternal Year. Supreme's goal for the state was exceeded by five new members.

For the new year, Supreme's goal for Mississippi is a 5 percent growth in membership, meaning 295 new members. State Deputy Danny Lechner, State Membership Director Billy Waggoner and, indeed, the entire leadership, are placing great emphasis on recruitment and retention in this year's program of work.

"Our No. 1 goal is to grow," Lechner said in his report to Schools of Columbianism attendees. "We can accomplish so much more with more people in our councils."

"Personal contact is the key," says Waggoner. "We must make prospects understand that we really want them and need them as Brother Knights to help further our mission."

An interesting statistic noted in reports is that the state has 325 inactive insurance members. These associates are enrolled in the K of C insurance program but have allowed their council memberships to expire.

"These individuals are great targets for our recruiters," Lechner noted. "By bringing them back into the membership, not only do we reactive a member but we hold on to an insured."

(Please See Increased Membership, Page 3)

Coming Events
Exemplifications
Sunday, September 21
2nd and 3rd Degrees, Council 10443, Grenada, 11:30 a.m.
Saturday, September 27
4th Degree, Assembly 2734, Starkville
Noteworthy Dates
Saturday, October 18
Worldwide Rosary for Unborn Babies, 9 - 10 a.m.
Sunday, October 26
Priesthood Sunday

Rosary for Unborn

The Worldwide Rosary for Unborn Babies prayer event is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 18.

Because participants will be praying the Rosary during the 9 a.m. hour, it is hoped that the earth will be circled with multiple waves of Rosaries within a 24-hour time period. (Persons may pray the Rosary at another time on Oct. 18.)



Buford Takes a Turn with 28 Initiates

Biloxi Council 1244 hosted an exemplification for 28 1st, 2nd and 3rd degree candidates that was preceded by a parade led by Buford, a goat with a 'worthy' history of assisting in such council functions with his handler, Bro. Curtis Harrison. The new Knights represent Biloxi 1244, Hattiesburg 1908, Pass Christian 4472 and 12331, D'Iberville 9094, Gautier 9124, Woolmarket 9673, Ocean Springs 10499 and Tylertown 11956. A home-style shrimp and spaghetti lunch prepared by Biloxi 1244 cooks followed the ceremony. (Submitted by Joe Ravita.)



A Helping Hand from Ocean Springs 5654 By Grand Knight Carl Brochard

Fred L. Westbrook Council 5654 in Ocean Springs held a fundraiser for St. Alphonsus parishioner and City Fire Chief Pat Williams (in red hat) to aid in his fight with brain cancer. Community Activities Chairman Doug Denehie greets Pat, who was scheduled to return to Houston to continue treatment just after this event. The council had great participation from Knights and the Ladies Auxiliary in preparing the dinner of shrimp, spaghetti and fried fish. Community support included Blossman gas; Rudy Migues, who contributed the shrimp; and Rex Distributing, which contributed the beverages. The Council presented a check for \$1,262 to the Williams family.

Congratulations to Supreme Council Award Winners!!

The Mississippi District produced 16 Supreme Council Award winners in recognition of outstanding achievements in programming, membership recruitment and retention and promotion of the Order's insurance program during the 2007-08 Fraternal Year.

Pearl St. Jude Centennial Council was named a Star Council, the highest of four Supreme Council awards. Four councils were dual winners.

Councils recognized for their work are:

Columbian Award

Meridian Msgr. John J. Burns Council 802; Greenville Fr. Korstebroek Council 2134; Laurel Council 2180; Clarksdale Msgr. James T. McKenna Council 2969; Long Beach St. Vincent de Paul Council 4898; Starkville Fr. John P. Egan Council 6765; Brookhaven Joseph Bonfiglio Council 7915; McComb Charles R. Brill Council 8054; and Oxford St. John Council 10901.

Father McGivney Award

Jackson John T. Savage Council 848; Pass Christian Monsignor Leech Council 4472; Starkville Fr. John P. Egan Council 6765; Picayune Oscar J. Gelphi Council 6872; Southaven Hernando DeSoto Council 7120; Tupelo Fr. Robert Reitmeier Council 8848; and Pass Christian Sacred Heart Dedeaux Council 12331.

Founder's Award

Jackson John T. Savage Council 848; Pass Christian Monsignor Leech Council 4472; Picayune Oscar J. Gelphi Council 6872; Tupelo Fr. Robert Reitmeier Council 8848; and Pass Christian Sacred Heart Dedeaux Council 12331.

30 Join Ranks of 4th Degree In D'Iberville Exemplification

Sacred Heart Catholic Church, D'Iberville, hosted an exemplification for 30 Catholic gentlemen who joined the ranks of the Knights of Columbus 4th Degree from various southern catholic parishes.

Roger Fetters, Faithful Navigator for Mark Landry Assembly 3007, D'Iberville and Woolmarket, said, "I want to congratulate the 10 men who completed the exemplification and will join our Assembly. I'm looking forward to their participation in our Patriotic Citizen Programs."

Those Sir Knights are: Jim Williams, Justin Ross, Kenneth Guardanapo, John Quave II, Nick Martino, Gabe Cameron, Shawn Thrower, Craig Fountain, Walt Miller and Jeremy DeNoux.



The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops invites U.S. Catholics to pray before the November election a novena for life, justice, and peace called Novena for Faithful Citizenship. It is a podcast and available for download at www.faithfulcitizenship.org/resources/podcasts.

The novena is part of "the bishops' campaign to help Catholics develop well-formed consciences for addressing political and social questions.

Helen Osman, USCCB Secretary of Communications, expressed hope that the novena could help "Catholics enter into prayerful reflection as they prepare to vote." Osman said that the USCCB wants to support Catholics as they weigh pre-election issues and that "providing a prayer resource on the Web can help us focus on our common values and identity as Catholics." The novena emphasizes the dignity of life, justice and peace.

The Novena runs for nine days and can be used consecutively, one day each week, for nine days prior to the election, or in any way that works best for a community or individual.

Increased Membership (continued from Page 1)

The district is obtaining a roster of those members and focusing on re-turning them to the membership fold.

Waggoner pointed out that Supreme's Leadership Guide for Membership Recruitment resides on the district's web site at www.ms-kofc.org/leadguide.pdf. "We have established a 3-year program of developing new membership-drive ideas, and there are excellent ideas employed by other councils around the U.S. incorporated in the information on the web site," Waggoner said.

In addition, Waggoner has established a goal for this year of having 90 percent of the state's councils "membership active." About 20 of the state's 59 councils were not membership active last year."

Hispanic Outreach Director Pascual Cruz says the state's Hispanic population offers great growth potential. He urges development of a Hispanic Roundtable in each council, and creation of a 1st Degree Hispanic team is planned to help in recruitment.

'This Is Our Commitment'

By Carl Anderson, Supreme Knight

The financial turmoil that began with the sub-prime mortgage crisis last summer continues to shake both the U.S. and world economies. But Knights of Columbus and their families who are protected by our life insurance policies need not worry, because ours is an insurance program that is designed by brother Knights for brother Knights.

We put our more than \$14 billion in assets in investment-grade bonds and the highest-quality equities. We avoid high risk investments, especially the complex products involving sub-prime mortgages, not because we don't understand them, but because we do understand them and know the risks they entail. We put your interests first, and because we earn an excellent return by relying on the highest-quality investments, we're able to provide you with a rock-solid foundation for building your financial future and protecting your family. This is our commitment to you.

Leadership Guide Offers Recruiting Pointers

Here are some ideas that have been successfully implemented in councils around the U.S. More pointers on recruitment are included in Supreme's Leadership Guide for Membership Recruitment, available at www.ms-kofc.org/leadguide.pdf.

- Have five Knights join together with the goal of recruiting one new member.
- Honor each proposer at the monthly meeting or in the council newsletter.
- Consult the "Knights in Action" section of *Columbia* magazine to get ideas about service programs that can attract new members
- Have the Grand Knight ask three council members as a personal favor to each propose a new member.
- Ask each council member to submit the names of three prospective members to the membership director.
- Be sure that each member has a Form 100 in his wallet – you never know when a prospect will appear.
- Make sure that your council has a clear membership goal that is communicated to the entire council membership.
- Include a prospect referral card with the monthly newsletter mailing.

Family of the Month

Congratulations to the James Starnes Family Council 5654 for receiving the Family of the Month from Supreme.

Also thanks to the following councils for taking time to submit a family of the month nomination: 802, 898, 1908, 2134, 2180, 4898, 5654*, 6872, 8038, 9094, 9124, 9543, 9673, 10216, 10901, 11956, 12271.

Hearing the Call

By Fr. Kent Bowlds, Vocation Director, Diocese of Jackson

If God is your co-pilot, then you're sitting in the wrong seat.

If "hearing the call" means truly listening and following the Lord, then we should be surprised from time to time where that takes us, since we are not in the driver's seat.

Two of our seminarians, Chris Buse and Grant Holzhauser, have decided not to return to the seminary this fall. Chris has just graduated from St. Joseph Seminary College, and Grant finished the first of four years of graduate theology. Both received favorable evaluations and made good grades this past semester; they simply are not sure at this time God is calling them to the priesthood, after having done the work of much discernment.

Rather than enter into a "pastoral year" in a parish supervised by the diocese as is done sometimes, they have decided to explore other options on their own. Chris will be teaching in St. Aloysius in Vicksburg this fall, and Grant is seeking church-related employment, probably outside of Mississippi. Sometimes in order to discern well one has to make a complete break, step away entirely, and from that new vantage point take a look at one's life. (Bishop Houck often shared with others his own experience of having taken some time away from the seminary in order to discern his calling.)

Will God call them back to seminary formation in the future? Only God knows. Their leaving is not a scandal, but a normal part of the overall vocations picture—more common among college seminarians than among those in graduate theology. I often tell men and women that they do not have to be 100 percent certain before entering preparation for the priesthood or religious life; sometimes beginning formation is the only way to finally know for sure.

Please know that your prayers and financial support for Chris and Grant have not been wasted. Even if they do not become priests someday, their seminary formation will bear good fruit for the Church in whatever way they serve and practice their faith.

Some leave and some arrive. We have just accepted a new seminarian, Adam Nobles from St. Alphonsus McComb, who just graduated from Parklane Academy. Adam will be following a new kind of formation process—enrolling as a freshman at Mississippi State University, living in a dorm there, and being involved in parish and campus ministry, along with receiving periodic direction and formation. It is envisioned that, God willing, he will later transfer to St. Joseph Seminary College to take the necessary hours in philosophy and complete his bachelor's degree, before going on to graduate theology formation.

Also arriving later this summer, from Guatemala, will be seminarian Juan Chavajay (a relative of Lorenzo Aju, Pastoral Minister of St. John in Eupora, Miss.). Juan has almost finished seminary in his home country, and will be coming here to learn English and work in our diocese in order for him to discern, along with us, if God is truly calling him to be a "missionary" in Mississippi. And Fr. Lenin Vargas has been following the application process with several seminarians from Morelia, Mexico; if accepted, they will be supported in Mexico for a couple of years until they finish philosophy, after which they will be brought to our diocese to finish English language studies and begin theology.

Newly ordained Fr. Lincoln Dall has begun serving as Associate Pastor of St. Richard, Jackson, and seminarian Charles Macko has graduated from Notre Dame Seminary and begun a parish internship in Natchez prior to diaconate and priesthood ordination in 2009.

So if I give you a blank look when you ask me, "How many seminarians do we have?" please forgive me. Things are in a state of flux, and will soon settle down for the fall. Please just keep the faith, keep praying, and keep inviting women and men to think about a life of service as a sister, brother, or priest. And if you haven't already, move over—let God be the pilot!

Young Seminarian Recollects His Calling to the Priesthood

(The newest seminarian for the Jackson Diocese, Adam Nobles, is a freshman at Mississippi State University, experiencing secular college in preparation for seminary and following a program of discernment and being mentored as part of his unique formation process. He reflects on how he experienced "the call" in this article for The Magnolia Knight.)

By Seminarian Adam Nobles

I am the last of five children and am blessed with two amazing people as my parents, Dr. James and Penny Nobles. Originally from Louisiana, we moved to McComb, MS, when I was 12. Throughout the years since, people from my home parish of St. Alphonsus and many others in the Jackson Diocese have not only helped me but also inspired me to go beyond my own expectations of what I can do, both as a man and as a Catholic seeking the truth.

My story of discernment is both simple and complicated at the same time—a mystery. Being born into a Catholic family and community in Louisiana, I was always surrounded by Catholicism. But I did not truly know what it means to be Catholic until I actually had to defend the faith when we moved to McComb and I attended a predominately Protestant school. Little did I know that it would be the Protestants' questions that would make me start to research and realize how awesome our faith is. By my freshman year of high school, I had become fully immersed in the different doctrines of our faith.

My understanding changed, however, when I went to a retreat which made me realize the greatest Truth I would ever know. The theme was "*Rise Up a Catholic Revolution*"—part of a series sponsored by Franciscan University,

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Supporting Our Seminarians By Deacon Larry Campbell State Vocations Chair

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, we must also provide moral support to that individual. This means exhibiting a willingness to remember him in our prayers, corresponding on a regular basis and scheduling visitations. It is recommended that we have written communication at least four 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 who are studying nearby or when they return home for a visit. Names and addresses of each seminarian studying for both the Diocese of Biloxi and the Diocese of Jackson are provided in this column. Even though a Knights of Columbus unit may not have financially adopted a specific seminarian, each unit is encouraged to communicate with these men. Fr. Dennis Carver, Diocesan Vocations Director for the Diocese of Biloxi (carver@holymfamilyparish.cc), and Fr. Kent Bowlds, Diocesan Vocations Director for the Diocese of Jackson (frkent@bellsouth.net), will be happy to provide these seminarians' birthdates and any other specific information they feel is appropriate. We can also remember them during Advent, Thanksgiving, the Christmas Season, the Lenten Season, Holy Week, the Triduum and Easter, as well as during Ordinary Time. These men need our support. They may well be our future shepherds.

It is my hope that we can all pull together in this endeavor. I do request, however, that each diocese support its own seminarians unless asked to do otherwise by Fr. Carver or Fr. Bowlds.

Biloxi Seminarians

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St. Paul, MN 55105-1035

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St. Meinrad Seminary

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Young Seminarian Recollects (continued from Page 4)

Steubenville. Before this experience, I didn't really know my purpose as a young Catholic. On the Saturday night of that retreat I recalled something from my childhood—mom and myself sitting in the back of a church praying to Mary—and in that retreat's moment of recollection, I felt Mary was calling me to become like her son and give up my life for the Church!

After that night nothing was the same ever again. I knew my purpose and I knew that I could not be afraid of the road that was laid before me (as Pope John Paul II often encouraged us).

Have I fallen or done some really ignorant things since then? Yes, I have, but a phrase I like to live by is that *the difference between a saint and a sinner is that the saint gets back up and tries his hardest to learn from his mistakes.*

I know that many adults and young people will read this and think it is just another nice, good story that has nothing to do with them. However I would like you to challenge yourselves even more to seek out the truth in your own lives and, most importantly, seek out who you are as a person made in the image of God. This is discernment and it is not just for seminarians! The road ahead of all of us can be hard and become even more difficult as we grow in faith, but God pours out his graces upon us all. I pray that we may all seek out the things that draw us close to God, and grab hold of the truth that *nothing can separate us from the love of God* (Romans 8: 31-38). This, I believe, is the answer to the great question of the mystery of life. I hope I can help others realize this by bringing them closer to Christ.