



**State Deputy**

Dr. Peter Sukanek, Oxford

**State Secretary**

Gerald 'Jerry' Schmuck, Gulfport

**State Treasurer**

David Scott, Madison

**State Advocate**

Jim McCraw, Jackson

**State Warden**

Noel Aucoin

**Immediate Past State Deputy**

Daniel 'Danny' Lechner, Biloxi

**State Chaplain**

Father Al Camp, Madison

Send Council, Assembly and Circle news and announcements by the 10<sup>th</sup> of each month to:

Fred Middleton  
4322 Bloombury St.  
Southaven, MS 38672  
kofc7120@yahoo.com  
662-449-0053

**Coming Events**

**Saturday, Aug. 14, 4th Degree Exemplification, Madison.**

**Saturday, Aug. 28, 4th Degree Exemplification, D'Iberville Mark Landry Assembly 307.**

**Noteworthy Dates**

**Aug. 7-15 - K of C Family Week.**

**Aug. 12 - 158<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Birth of Venerable Fr. Michael J. McGivney.**

**Aug. 14 - 120th Anniversary of the Death of Venerable Fr. Michael J. McGivney.**

**Aug. 15 - Semiannual Council Audit Report (#1295) for the period ending June 30 due at Supreme Council.**

# The Magnolia Knight

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July 2010

## Year for Priests Pilgrimage 'A Very Impressive' Experience'

By Fr. Al Camp, State Chaplain

Approximately 70 State Chaplains of the Knights of Columbus from the USA, Canada, Mexico, The Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, the Philippines and Poland traveled to Rome June 6-13 on a Year for Priests Pilgrimage.

That week proved not only to be a most thoroughly impressive experience but also one of the finest retreats I have ever made. On the flight to Rome on Alitalia, I sat between Fr. Jean Arsenault from Prince Edward Island and Fr. John Grace, Director of the Chaplain Programs and Development for the Knights. For about an hour, Fr. Grace shared his thoughts on what chaplains should be doing to strengthen the faith of the Knights in their Councils.

On arrival in Rome, our hotel was the Crowne Plaza on the Via Aurelia Antica.

Each day during our week in Rome we recited the Breviary together using the specially prepared pilgrimage handbook.

On Monday, we offered Mass at the Basilica of St. Peter at the Altar of the Chair. Before that Mass we were each presented a beautiful chasuble and stole to use and to take home with us. Tuesday's Mass was at the Altar of the Confession in the Vatican Grottoes.

Bishop William Lori, Bishop of Bridgeport, CT, and Supreme Chaplain, was the main celebrant and homilist. He was a real inspiration.

Tuesday afternoon, we visited the Basilicas of St. John Lateran and St. Mary Major, where Cardinal Law met us at the door and gave us an extended personal tour.

Wednesday and Thursday we of-

fered Mass with 4,000 other priests at the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls. What a surprise! I thought there would be a few priests there, but they kept coming from all over the world. Seated next to our group were priests from Cameroon, Nigeria, Korea and Australia. Cardinal Meisner, Archbishop of Cologne, presented a meditation. Speaking in German, he illustrated the importance of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. One line struck me: *"A confessional where a priest is present, in an empty church, is the most important symbol of God's patience, God who waits."*

On Thursday, the Cardinal Archbishop of Quebec spoke in Italian of the need for prayer in the life of the priest.

On Wednesday late afternoon at the Capitoline Museum we celebrated in impressive fashion the K of C 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in Rome. On Thursday evening there was the vigil with Pope Benedict from 6 to 11. The Pope was there until the end. On Friday we celebrated with about 15,000 priests the Papal Mass in St. Peter's Square. Was it warm!

Speaking again of life being difficult, Pope Benedict in his long homily (all in Italian) speaking to the 15,000 priests concelebrating, did make reference to the clergy sexual abuse cross that he and all of us bear today.

Friday afternoon we toured the catacombs of St. Callixtus, a cool place. That evening there was a formal dinner at Hotel Columbus with the American cardinals present.

*(Please see Pilgrimage, Page 2)*

## ***Knight in Shining Armor Added As New Membership Award***

**By Philip Jabour, State Membership Director**

The state officers have agreed to a new membership award for the 2010-11 Fraternal Year. Members who have been a Knight for more than one year can earn the Knight in Shining Armor Award and be a Knight of the Round Table.

The award was introduced in California three years ago, and its success led Supreme to adopt the program Order wide.

The award is earned each year, and recognition for the Knight earning the award, and Councils also can earn awards.

The Council with the highest number of members earning the award and the Council with the highest percentage of members earning the award will be recognized. The Council that wins each category will receive an award and received preferred seating the State Convention.

Requires for the award:

Participate on three Council service program; attend at least three Council business meetings; be a 3rd Degree member; Recruit one new member; and meet with the Council insurance representative if you do not already have a K of C insurance policy.

These requirements must be met before March 31, 2011.



***The Jurisdiction was recognized for its support of Supreme's Food for the Hungry campaign during the 2010 Fraternal Year. Supreme Knight Carl Anderson thanked State Deputy Peter Sukanek for the state's assistance and contributed \$2,100 to the Biloxi Diocese and \$1,500 for food pantries. The Jurisdiction also finished in the Top 10 in overall contributions for the year contributing \$102 per member for Supreme programs.***

## ***Pilgrimage, cont'd from Page 1***

Saturday we went by bus to Assisi for an all-day tour beginning at the Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels with the miniature Porziuncola Church inside. At Assisi we offered Mass at the Basilica and had a festive lunch with the friars in their massive dining room. We prayed at the tomb of St. Francis. His sidekick, Brother Leo, is buried just next to the tomb of St. Francis.

One of the Friars gave us the deluxe tour. After visiting the gift shop, we then walked up to the Basilica of St. Clare to pray Vespers then down to dinner and on to our busses and home to Rome.

On Sunday after a very impressive concluding Mass at the Hotel with Bishop Lori we headed to the airport and on to JFK.

Every detail of the pilgrimage was perfectly orchestrated and paid for by the Knights of Columbus, real proof that the Knights of Columbus are truly in solidarity with the priests. They even gave each of us a 200 Euro Pilgrims Pence. The Rome Pilgrimage proved to be much more than we could have imagined.

## ***Bishops Express Appreciation For Gerow Fund Support***

In letters to State Deputy Peter Sukanek, Bishops Latino of the Jackson Diocese Rodi of the Biloxi Diocese expressed appreciation for the Jurisdiction's support of the Bishop Gerow Fund for priest education.

Councils, Assemblies and Ladies Auxiliaries contributed \$92,823.43 to fund during the 2010 Fraternal Year.

Gerow Fund Chair Don Cox said in his final review of the campaign that the Jurisdiction has contributed \$1.9 million dollars since the fund was initiated in 1953.

### ***Bishop R.O. Gerow Donations 2009-10***

#### ***Summary***

#### ***Diocese of Biloxi***

Total Received Prior to Convention	\$23,504.18
Total Council Amounts at Convention	14, 570.00
Total Assembly Amounts at Convention	2,859.00
Total Ladies Aux. Amounts at Convention	660.00
Total Received 2009-10	41,583.18
State Ladies Aux. at Convention	<u>1,639.00</u>
Christopher Fund	1,639.00
<b>GRAND TOTAL RECEIVED 2009-10</b>	<b>\$43,472.18</b>

#### ***Diocese of Jackson***

Total Received Prior to Convention	\$25,858.00
Total Council Amounts at Convention	18,969.25
Total Assembly Amounts at Convention	2,625.00
Total Ladies Aux. Amounts at Convention	0.00
Total Received 2009-10	46,452.25
State Ladies Aux. at Convention	250.00
Christopher Fund	1,639.00
<b>GRAND TOTAL RECEIVED 2009-10</b>	<b>\$48,341.25</b>



## Newly Elected Officers Review Priorities, Objectives at Schools of Columbianism

By Ed Guardanapo

Oxford St. John Council 10901 in the Northern District, Jackson John T. Savage Council 848 in the Central District and D'Iberville Fr. Patrick McAlpine Council 9094 in the Southern District hosted the Jurisdiction's 2010 School of Columbianism sessions over two weekends in July.

Newly elected officers for the new Fraternal Year heard presentations on the shifting emphasis and changes in service programs for the coming year and the increased focus on retention and membership strength in the state of Mississippi. Conferees heard State Deputy Peter

Sukanek present information on staying current and active in meeting program objectives. He also stressed the importance of meeting reporting dates.

State Programs Director, Elvis Gates presented information of Fraternal activities and stated that "membership is still an important aspect of the Knights of Columbus, but its through Service Programs

that each Council uses its talented members in reaching the goals of the Knights of Columbus."

The gathering in Oxford was preceded on the evening before by the state organization meeting and installation of State Officers that included the celebration of Mass at St. John Church in Oxford.



State Deputy Peter Sukanek (at podium) and other state officers presided at training sessions for new Council officers. From left are Immediate Past State Deputy Danny Lechner, who heads New Council Development; State Advocate Jim McCraw; State Treasurer Gerald Schmuck; State Treasurer David Scott; and State Warden Noel Aucoin.



Attendees at the Northern District gathering at St. John Church in Oxford included (seated, from left) Basil Richmond, Oxford 10901 Grand Knight; Ray Ball, District Deputy of District 1; State Deputy Peter Sukanek, who presided over training for new officers; Frank Oliverio, Corinth 8912 State Community Director; and Otha Jones, Holly Springs 8760 Trustee; and (standing) Matthew Zerangue, Oxford Deputy Grand Knight; Victor Beard, Holly Springs Treasurer; Claude Vinson, Holly Springs Grand Knight; Tommy Thompson, Corinth Financial Secretary; Bill Geer, Corinth Grand Knight; and Bill Panlener, Oxford Financial Secretary. Oxford Chancellor Jacob Eftink also attended.



District 2 representatives at the Oxford meeting were (from left) Southaven 7120 Deputy Grand Knight and State Public Relations Chair Fred Middleton; Olive Branch Council 14051 Grand Knight Joe Suhanin; and Tom Cusker, who is beginning his second year as Southaven 7120 Grand Knight.



State Deputy and State Advocate Jim McCraw huddle with District officers representing District 3 Councils (from left) District Deputy Howard Hill, Greenwood 5267 Grand Knight Ben Harper; Grenada 10443 Recorder Chris Major; and Grenada Warden John Portis.



## Ocean Springs Council Presents Chris Nielsen Scholarships



**Ocean Springs Fred L. Westbrook Sr. Council 5654 presented \$500 Chris Nielsen Scholarships to two recent high school graduates who are parishioners of St. Alphonsus Church. The scholarships are in memory of the late Knight Chris Nielsen and are presented each year by the Grand Knight of Council 5654 and Chris' mother, Jean Nielsen. The recipient's are judged by a panel of four that includes Fr. Henry McInerney, Pastor of St. Alphonsus. Mrs. Nielsen and GK James Starnes presented the awards to Ian Render (left), son of Frank and Cynthia Leach, and Tyler Williams, son of Glen and Shannon Williams. (Submitted by Carl Brochard.)**

## West Biloxi Near \$5,000 in PID Drive

By Grand Knight Bill Roberts

West Biloxi Reinhart Schroeder Council 9409 completed another extremely successful PID fund raising drive, collecting almost \$5,000 to continue the record of making this event the Council's trademark charitable event of the year.

Each year the Council invites several of the local homes and recipients to its monthly social, where everyone always makes some new friends, has a great time and enjoys a good home-cooked meal. The funds that are raised go directly to the recipients' use for making needed improvements to their classrooms and living areas.



**West Biloxi Council Past Grand Knight, Lonnie White (right), presents a check in the amount of almost \$2,000 raised in the annual People with Intellectual Disabilities drive to Celia Bouse, the Recreation Director of the Biloxi Community Homes.**

## RSVP: Assisting Those Wishing to Serve

By Deacon Larry Campbell  
State Vocations Chair

Since its formation in 1882, the Knights of Columbus have supported our Bishops with the issue of Vocations.

Since the early 50's in the Mississippi Jurisdiction, nearly \$2 million has been raised through the Bishop R. O. Gerow Memorial Fund. In addition, several years ago, the Knights of Columbus instituted a vehicle through which funds could be raised and donated through the Catholic Foundations of the Diocese of Jackson and the Diocese of Biloxi.

Another way in which we as Councils, Assemblies, Ladies Auxiliaries or Squire Circles can assist Vocations is through the RSVP Program (Refund Support Vocations Program). This is a very simple program in which we can assist individuals who are seeking to serve the Church.

At the present time, the Diocese of Jackson does not have a Vocations director. Fr. Kent Bowlds, former director, is on sabbatical. He will not return to the Diocese until mid-November. Presently, Fr. Matthew Simmons, the pastor of St. Francis of Assisi in Brookhaven, is coordinating the seminarians currently in training. We now have 9 seminarians. If you are interested in adopting a seminarian through RSVP, please contact Fr. Matthew or me.

It is possible that some Councils, Assemblies, Ladies Auxiliaries or Squire Units will not be able to lend assistance. This, however, does not mean that you cannot help financially. From time to time, a need will arise when a seminarian needs assistance. When this happens, Fr. Matthew and/or I will contact you and ask for help.

We encourage all of you to be as generous as possible.

Vivat Jesus!