

# The Magnolia Knight

## A Word from the State Deputy

### Welcome Bishop Kopacz

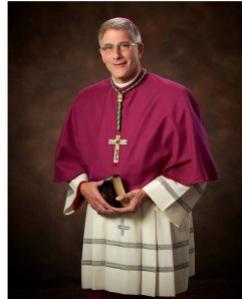
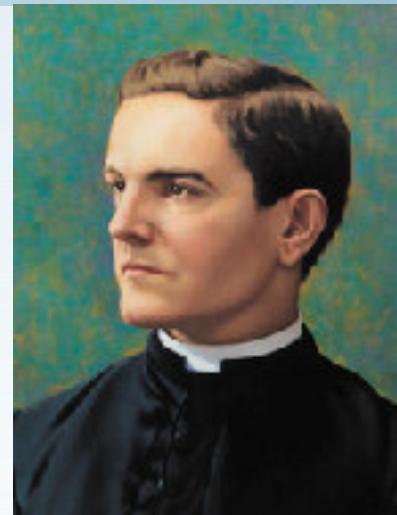


On February 6, the State Officers were honored to be able to attend the ordination of Bishop Joseph Kopacz to the Diocese of Jackson. The Fourth Degree provided an honor guard under the direction of our State Master, Bill O'Conner. The honor guard consisted not only of fourth degree members, but also members from the Knights of Peter Claver. It was quite a ceremony. Thanks go out to many councils who answered the call to help fund a live webcast of the event. Your efforts allowed thousands of individuals to witness the event that would have normally been reserved to only a few. Pictures of the event are also posted on the Knights of Columbus state website.

I understand that Bishop Kopacz has been extremely busy since his ordination, but I encourage you to invite him to your council events and support him in any way he needs. We will gain his support through our support of him and his ministry. Your support of all of our bishops, active and retired, is crucial to fulfilling our motto of standing in solidarity with our bishops and priests. Continue to pray for Bishop Morin and Bishop Howze in the Biloxi Diocese and Bishop Kopacz, Bishop Latino and Bishop Houck in the Jackson Diocese. Their service to the Catholic community of our state is greatly appreciated and honored.

Most councils will be extremely busy during the Lenten season, with stations of the cross, rosaries, fish fries and other Lenten projects. Don't forget to continue recruiting new members to join our ranks. If possible, conduct a church recruitment drive during March to honor our Founder, Fr. Michael J. McGivney. Founders' Day is March 29. This is a great time to introduce our Order to members of your parish and to ask them to be a part of the Knights of Columbus.

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*Picture courtesy Diocese of Scranton*

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#### State Officers

**State Chaplain**  
R. Bob Higginbotham, D'Iberville

**State Deputy**  
David Scott, Madison

**State Secretary**  
Jim McCraw, Jackson

**State Treasurer**  
Noel Aucoin, D'Iberville

**State Advocate**  
Philip Jabour, Flowood

**State Warden**  
Ben Mokry, Jackson

**Immediate Past State Deputy**  
Gerald E. "Jerry" Schmuck

Send Council, Assembly and Circle news to John Lacourge at  
[jklacourge@bellsouth.net](mailto:jklacourge@bellsouth.net)

## Service Program Awards Forms Deadline

My Brothers,  
the awards  
ceremony will  
be held at the  
State Conven-  
tion on Satur-  
day April 26th.



I know that you want to be recognized for all the good works your council has accomplished this Columbian year. To do so you need to submit your State Service Program Awards Entry Forms in a timely manner. The Program Report form is available online at the state website.

The awards entry forms must be submitted by March 31<sup>st</sup> to be included in this year's awards. The form provides detail on what is expected. All forms must be submitted to [Programs1@bellsouth.net](mailto:Programs1@bellsouth.net).

For this to work your assistance is crucial. Please don't wait to the very last minute. If you have questions, don't hesitate to email or call me.

Ben Mokry  
State Warden  
2014 State Program Chair (acting)



## Supreme Council Families of the Month

The following are the Mississippi winners of the Supreme Council's Family of the Month contest for the month of January 2014. They are obtained through a random drawing held at the Supreme Council office from among the many nominees submitted by local councils.

The families of:

Richard & Sandra Clark  
Council 2134—Greenville

Richard & Kathleen Turley  
Council 15382—Hattiesburg

Councils are encouraged to submit their Family of the Month reports in a timely fashion in order for their submissions to be eligible.

## Council 7120 Holds Free Throw Championship

Last month, Council 7120 held the annual Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship in the parish hall at Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Hernando. Turnout was extremely light with competitors only in the 13 year old girls division.

Danielle Robinson from Southaven sank 16 of 25 free throws to take home the Council Champion honors. Danielle may now compete in the District level championship which may take place later this month with the State level competition to follow.

Knights in attendance were GK Ted Lander, Recorder Lonnie Treadaway, Jack Jennings and his wife, Lisa, Ted Schreck, past DGK and current Faithful Navigator John Robinson, and Travis Baird. Discussions have already begun to determine how to gain more participation in the event. The possibilities of incorporating into school functions and other youth activities will provide for more exposure and participants.



Jack Jennings, Council Champion Danielle Robinson, and Grand Knight Ted Lander.

*"Human life is sacred and inviolable at every moment of existence..." Evangelium Vitae*

## Vicksburg Council Marches for Life



Sir Knight Charles Hahn carries the U.S. Flag at the head of the March for Life held by Vicksburg Council 898 on Saturday, January 18<sup>th</sup>.

Knights of Columbus Council 898 in Vicksburg held its 4<sup>th</sup> annual March for Life on Saturday, January 18<sup>th</sup>. The group of 25 marchers marched from the St. Aloysius parking lot to the Right to Life Monument the Cedar Hill Cemetery. Upon reaching the monument, Fr. Tom Lalor, chaplain of the Vicksburg Council, led the group in the Rosary to our Blessed Mother.

## Assembly 558 in Vicksburg to Host Fourth Degree Exemplification



*Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus in regalia provide an Honor Guard at the Ordination of Joseph Kopacz at the Cathedral of St. Peter the Apostle in Jackson on Thursday, February 6<sup>th</sup>. (Photo courtesy Joe Ellis/The Clarion-Ledger)*

Vicksburg Assembly 558 will host an Exemplification of the Fourth Degree of the Order on Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, in the Knights of Columbus Hall at 301 Fisher Ferry Rd. in Vicksburg. Catholic Church in Flowood. Only Third Degree Knights in good standing are eligible and are encouraged to take this next step in their knighthood.

The schedule of events is as follows:

12:30 PM—Lunch

1:00 PM—Registration begins

2:30 PM—Exemplification

5:30 PM—Mass at St. Michael's

7:00 PM—Banquet

The fee is \$70.00 per candidate, which includes the 4th Degree social baldric and label pin as well as the banquet for the candidate. Another \$20.00 fee is required for each additional guest at the banquet.

All candidates and Fourth Degree members observing the ceremony must wear a black tuxedo, pleated white tuxedo shirt with lay-down collar, black bow tie, black cummerbund, and black shoes. Military personnel may wear dress uniforms, and priests may wear clerics.

If interested, you should be able to obtain the requisite Form 4 from the Membership Director of your council. The Form must be completed and mailed in with a check no later than Monday, March 31<sup>st</sup>. Of course, sooner would be better.

Mail completed Form 4 and check payable to Bill O'Connor to:

Bill O'Connor, District Master  
103 Cotton Acres Dr.  
Clinton, MS 39056-9743

For more information, contact Charles Hahn at [cdhpc2@yahoo.com](mailto:cdhpc2@yahoo.com) or call him at 601-638-4776 (Home) or 601-831-1057 (Cell).

### Fred Middleton RIP



*We had barely begun the calendar year when we learned of the untimely death of State Program Director and former editor of this publication Fred Middleton. Brother Fred's energy and devotion to the Order will certainly be missed. As a fitting tribute to him, please find the following words from his dear friend Deacon Larry Campbell.*

Fred Middleton was a unique and private individual. In his time in the Knights of Columbus, he was extremely committed to the Knights' ministry of being "my brother's keeper." From his earliest days, he was deeply committed to the work of the Order, the success of the "Magnolia Knight" and his local Council.

He was a very private man, as I said. Not only did he have major health issues, but he was also very unwilling to share the seriousness of his health with anyone. During the last 6 - 12 months of his life, he and I shared many thoughts and issues regarding his family and his health condition. Few people knew how ill Fred really was. I happened to be someone that he shared these issues with. Until the last few days of his life, we talked about his commitment to the Order and to his faith.

Fred was almost always a daily communicant. He served in numerous liturgical capacities, participated in various religious classes as well as teaching in the Confirmation process. One could say that he was truly and deeply a Catholic gentleman.

Upon learning of his death, I was stunned and deeply saddened by the loss of such a fine man. I was instrumental in his being named State Knight of the Year and very happy to find out about his appointment to the State office he held at the time of his death. I feel, even today, an emptiness in my heart because of his absence.

Vivat Jesus!

Deacon Larry Campbell  
PGK, Hernando DeSoto Council #7120

## Bishop R.O. Gerow (Priest Education) Program

Brothers, our state convention is approximately 2 months away, and we should be in our final preparation to support this important event in our 2013-2014 Fraternal Year.

I hope your preparations include a donation to the Bishop R.O. Gerow Program. Your donation should be sent to our State Treasurer by April 15th, if possible. He and I are in weekly contact and your donations will be monitored closely. We plan to properly represent you as we give YOUR donations to our Bishops.

Lent has started, and it is excellent opportunity to plan a non-meat dinner. You will most likely get great parish support if it is advertised that the proceeds will be used to support the education of our future priests.

Carol and I are looking forward to seeing you in Jackson.

Vivat Jesus  
Don Cox  
Chairman, Bishop Gerow Program



## Upcoming Events

Following is a list of upcoming events as they appear on the [calendar](#) on the Mississippi Knights of Columbus website. For more information concerning the time and exact location of each, go to the calendar and click on the item.

- Saturday, March 15 - Southern Region Free Throw Competition, St. Alphonsus Gym, Ocean Springs
- Sunday March 23 - First Degree Exemplification, Kiln
- Saturday, March 29 - South Mississippi Special Olympics, Stennis Space Center
- Saturday, April 5 - Fourth Degree Exemplification, Vicksburg
- Monday, April 7 - First Degree Exemplification, Southaven
- Friday and Saturday, April 12 & 13—State Bowling Tournament, Meridian

## A Word from the State Deputy (Continued from Page 1)

Our State Convention will be held April 25-27 in Jackson at the Marriott Hotel. Is your council ready? Have you met your membership and program goals for the fraternal year? Have your delegate names been submitted to the State Secretary? Have you sent in the names of members who have died this year for inclusion in the necrology at the memorial mass?

I am asking each council and assembly to purchase an ad in the convention book. The theme of the convention is Honoring Our Chaplains. Purchase an ad in honor of your council chaplain and be sure to invite him to the Friday dinner social at convention. We will recognize and honor all council chaplains Friday evening along with our Past State Chaplains. We are also instituting a procession of council banners at the beginning of the Friday social at convention. You are asked to bring your council/assembly banner to convention and be a part of the procession. Let's make this convention a time to remember.

Have you honored your chaplain lately?

David Scott  
State Deputy

## 2014 State Convention Registration Underway

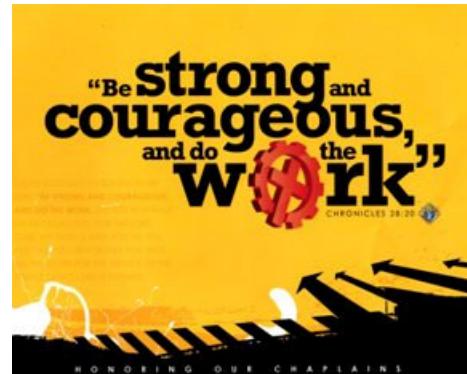
Registration for the 2014 State Convention is now open. Go to <http://www.kofc-ms.org> and look for the **Register Now** button in the 2014 Convention section. This is the easiest way to register and allows you to pay securely with a credit card or PayPal® account. It provides immediate confirmation of your registration details and payment transaction.

Please pass this information to individuals who may be attending as delegates or members of your councils, assemblies, and auxiliaries.

If you have questions about your convention registration, please contact Registration Co-Chair, Bill O'Connor, [waoconnor@comcast.net](mailto:waoconnor@comcast.net) or 601-906-8890.

If you have questions specifically about the on-line registration feature, contact Ben Mokry, [bmokry@bellsouth.net](mailto:bmokry@bellsouth.net) or 601-259-7926.

Ben Mokry  
2014 Convention Committee



## Best Practices

Many councils and assemblies include in their newsletters lists of Brother Knights celebrating birthdays during the month, often including the date on which each occurs. Our Worthy State Secretary Jim McCraw wanted to pass along an observation made at the District 12 Mid-winter Meeting. While it is commendable to draw our attention to these milestones in the lives of our Brothers, because of security concerns it would be best *not* to include the year of birth in the list. Identity theft and other unscrupulous practices abound in today's world, and we should guard against inadvertently exposing our members to them unnecessarily.