



*"Our goal is very specific.*

*Developing Catholic Leaders.*

*Strengthening Catholic Families."*

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# The Magnolia Knight

## Serving the Mississippi Jurisdiction of the Knights of Columbus

Volume XIV Issue XI

November 2014

### From Our State Deputy



As we begin November, I want you to think about how we can grow our councils from within. By that I mean, strengthen our "muscles and bones". Take a look at how your meetings are run, how you keep the parish and your members informed about your activities, how you interact with one another, and how you "evangelize" your Catholic faith... by your example. Rather than tell you how to do all these things, I want you to talk about it among your council. Have a relaxed gathering and invite all interested members, especially your past grand knights, your chaplain and at least 3 first degree members. Have food and take notes. There are several really good videos on the Supreme website. None are very long. One of my favorites is the story of Fr. McGivney. Oct 31 – Nov 2, all state deputies convened in Baltimore, MD to share ideas, discuss common problems and be updated by the Supreme officers

and staff. We were invited to hold it in Baltimore by our Supreme Chaplain, Archbishop William Lori so we could participate in the 225<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Archdiocese of Baltimore. Our opening mass was held in the Cathedral of the Assumption, now a Basilica. The cornerstone for the Cathedral was laid in 1806 by Bishop John Carroll and consecrated in 1821. It is considered the mother church of America. The funeral mass for Charles Carroll, only Catholic signer of the Declaration of Independence, was held there. Fr. McGivney was ordained there. For me, it set the tone for our meeting. Supreme Knight Carl Anderson eloquently defined our status and goals.

We'll do the same thing on December 6, when all of our District Deputies gather in the Jackson area to share their ideas and discuss common problems within their jurisdictions or district. It is important work they do and for that reason, it is a special leader who accepts that challenging job. To insure this is a successful meeting, just as Supreme does, we will have various program and membership chairmen talk about their focus and how it helps the councils as well as their parish/community. It's a state meeting but our District Deputies are the Stars. Speaking of Stars, let's talk about Star Councils and how we are stepping up to the next level in assisting you to achieve this prestigious accomplishment. On November 1, former District Deputy Bill Heath became

Mississippi's first Star Council Director. His primary job is to work with councils and districts in tracking your progress toward Star Council. Bill has been working with the Star Council leadership team in Texas getting Mississippi ready to go on this initiative. You'll hear more about this as we present the Star Awards to councils this month.

Earlier in the year, I said of our 61 active Councils we have over 50 who can attain Star. 11 others have shrinking parish sizes. Some of these may qualify next year, based on eligible candidates.

Roundtables can be a factor for all of you but it will require action and faith. The key man on your council's star team is your Chaplain. He will tell you one of the best recruiting tools is seeing Knights regularly attending mass. Wear your name tags or KC pins. Simple things have big results.

My goal is 42 Star Councils. Your goal is 1.

As a closing reminder, when a Second Degree is scheduled, make every opportunity to personally invite every 1<sup>st</sup> degree member you believe is ready to advance and learn the lesson of Unity.

This will be Mississippi's opportunity to lead the Order by our example. We will do this together.

Jim

## Catholics Take Pro-Life Campaign To The Streets

As October is Respect Life Month, Sunday October 5th was Respect Life Sunday. Knights and their families from Biloxi to Southaven joined priests, religious, and other concerned Catholics to show their communities what we believe and to ask others to join them to join in the fight for the rights of all from conception to natural death.



## Oxford Council 10901 Hosts Respect Life Fundraiser

Knights of Columbus Council 10901 and parishioners of St. John the Evangelist, Oxford, celebrated Respect for Life Month by hosting a fundraiser to benefit the Pregnancy Test Center in Oxford on Sunday, October 5th.

Barbeque chicken, cole slaw and baked beans were on the menu as some 150 St. John parishioners made free-will donations to enjoy fellowship and help Sav-A-Life of Lafayette County to continue their work with new mothers.

The Pregnancy Test Center is the operational organization of Sav-A-Life of Lafayette County, a non-

denominational, non-profit Christ-centered ministry. Sav-A-Life receives no government or United Way funding, but depends on donations from churches, organizations, businesses and individuals.

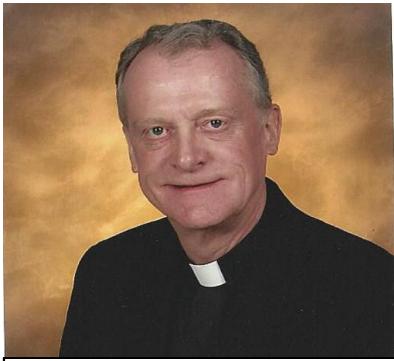
Women receive free pregnancy testing services and ultrasounds to confirm pregnancy. Many who get these services are young women, teenagers and single mothers who may have unsure futures with new or additional children and may be considering options, including abortion. Volunteers and paid staff (only 3 paid staff) provide counseling and alternatives to abortions,

including marriage, parenting, adoption and other options depending on individual circumstances. Clients receive points for attending a variety of classes and can trade those points for baby clothes and equipment necessary for new child care. Post-birth counseling helps mothers make the transition to their new lives. If a mother previously had an abortion, post-abortion consultations are available.

The most important choices, however, are for mothers who choose life instead of abortion. So far this year, 21 of the Pregnancy Testing Center's clients have chosen life instead of abortion. These young lives will not be counted in the 1.2 million abortions carried out in the United States this year.



## Message From Our State Chaplain



**Msgr. Elvin Sunds**

Dear Brother Knights,

As I mentioned last month, the family is the basic building block of society and of our Church. The Second Vatican Council even refers to the family as the "domestic church." This month is a special. The green leaves of summer turn bright shades of red, yellow and brown celebrating the change of seasons. Spring and summer are a memory as we enter fall and winter. November is a month that our Church as well as the "domestic church" celebrates memories.

During the month of November we celebrate All Saints Day, All Souls Day

and Thanksgiving. What these days have in common is that we celebrate memories.

All Saints Day we celebrate the memory of family members and friends who have gone to their eternal reward and enjoy the fullness of the Lord's presence. On All Souls Day we celebrate the memory of those who have died and pray that they may know the fullness of the Lord's presence. And on Thanksgiving Day we give thanks to the Lord as we remember all our blessings.

On All Saints Day and All Souls Day I encourage our Knights and their families to take time to share memories of those who have gone before. Perhaps before evening meal, take time to tell your children and grandchildren stories of relatives who have gone to the Lord. Introduce them to family members that perhaps they never had the opportunity to know. Story telling is a wonderful way of connecting us with our history and helping us understand that we are all members of the "Communion of Saints." These days are reminders that one day we will all be united in the Lord as one family.

And of course, Thanksgiving Day is not just a secular holiday. We remember all our blessings and give thanks to the Lord. What better way to begin the day than with the Eucharist –



the ultimate Thanksgiving Meal. And before beginning our family Thanksgiving meal we can encourage each person to mention something for which he or she is especially thankful to the Lord.

May each of you be blessed during this month with happy memories of loved ones and of the bountiful generosity of the Lord. And may you joyfully celebrate those memories with your "domestic church."

Sincerely in Christ,  
Msgr. Elvin Sunds  
State Chaplain

## 4th Degree Serves At Homecoming

4th Degree Knights from Bishop Gerow and Bishop Brunini Assemblies who stood as an Honor Guard at half time for Homecoming activities for St. Joseph's in Madison on Oct. 17th.

L-R: Worthy District Marshal Craig Harrell, Worthy Sir Knights Aad De Lange, Charles Sims, Jim Finley, Allen Scott, and Steve Miller.



## Vocations Week Set For November 2—9

The Knights of Columbus has designated November 2—9 as Vocations Week. Our Worthy State Deputy has requested that Councils submit photo/articles about what they're doing to raise money for Vocations.

Does your Council or Assembly sponsor a seminarian or seminarians. Give us the stories about how they put those RSVP dollars to use and how important the cards and letters are. We know a few of the coast councils that provide funds for some of the Polish seminarians to visit their home country.

A lot of great things no one knows about except the seminarian and the council.

Let's tell some of those stories.

### *Prayer for Vocations*

*Heavenly Father, bless Your Church with an abundance of holy and zealous priests, deacons, brothers and sisters.*

*Give those You have called to the married state and those You have chosen to live as single persons in the world the special graces that their lives require.*

*Form us all in the likeness of Your Son so that in Him, with Him and through Him we may love You more deeply and serve You more faithfully, always and everywhere. With Mary we ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

## Oxford Council 10901 Supports Sav-A-Life

About 15 Knights of Columbus Council 10901 members and wives attended the annual Sav-A-Life of Lafayette County Banquet September 29th. The Council sponsored a table and purchased 8 tickets for Council members and parishioners.

Sav-A-Life is a non-denominational, nonprofit, Christ-centered ministry which depends on donations of churches, organizations, businesses and individuals. Sav-A-Life receives no Federal or United Way funds. Women receive free pregnancy testing services and ultrasounds to confirm pregnancy and other services for new

mothers. The Pregnancy Test Center is the operational organization for Sav-A-Life of Lafayette County that conducts the testing and provides counseling to women of all ages who may be facing uncertain futures with new or additional children or considering options including abortion.

Volunteers and paid staff (only 3 paid staff) provide counseling and alternatives to abortion, including marriage, parenting, adoption and other actions depending on individual circumstances. Clients receive points for attending a variety of classes and can trade those points for baby clothes

and equipment necessary for new child care. Post-birth counseling is offered to help mothers make the transition to their new lives. If a mother previously had an abortion, post-abortion consultation is available.

The most important choices for at-risk mothers, however, are for the mothers who choose life instead of abortion. 21 at-risk clients so far this year have chosen life instead of abortion. These young lives will not be counted among the 1.2 million babies that will be aborted in the United States this year.



Grand Knight Burke Nichols and his wife Keleigh attend the Sav-A-Life Banquet in Oxford on September 29th.



Rosann Hudson and Knight Dave Sherman enjoy the company and good food at the Sav-A-Life Banquet.

## Fourth Degree Convenes, Installs Officers



On Saturday, Oct 18<sup>th</sup>, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, D'Iberville MS, members of the Knights of Columbus, 4<sup>th</sup> degree, representing the Bienville Province (LA, MS, AR, TN and AL), convened a day of training for state and district deputies, and Masters of the 4<sup>th</sup>, and culminating in the installation of Masters of the 4<sup>th</sup> for the Bienville Province.

It was a day utilized for training and up-dating policies and procedures on current administrative processes, and the timely coordination in reporting of objectives and expectations for each master of the 4<sup>th</sup> jurisdictions," stated Vice Supreme Master of the 4<sup>th</sup>, Russell Ruh.

"The key to the success for all 4<sup>th</sup> degree assemblies is to have masters of the 4<sup>th</sup> attuned to recruiting new members through each assembly; to support the efforts of the state council and to set effective exemplification dates with honorees. These are but a few ways his jurisdiction of assemblies can all share in their combined success."

Information supporting the John MCDevitt and Pro Deo & Pro Patria scholarship programs of the 4<sup>th</sup> Degree; how to use the Honor Guard/Color Corps Drill Manual, and use of the Regalia and dress policies were presented along with support for priestly vocations, a Memorandum from Dennis Stoddard, Supreme Master, was circulated and discussed during the meeting.

It was stressed that all 4<sup>th</sup> Degree assemblies actively support priestly vocations for the military. The Knights of Columbus has established the military chaplain scholarship fund, reserved exclusively for seminarians who will, once ordained, serve both their home diocese and the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA, as a uniformed chaplain. Through the Knights of Columbus Charities, Military Chaplain Scholarship Program, the military archdiocese contracts with each participating diocese to fund 50 percent of the cost of a seminarian's five-year education—typically \$12,500 per year. To date, the goal of \$1,000,000.00 pledged needs \$129,000.00 to meet that goal.



## Your Council Needs A Mid-Year Checkup

We have now reached the midway point of our 2014-2015 State Fraternal Year, and it is time for each council to take a look back at the past six months and take an inventory of their achievements. The State Programs Mid-Year Report is due for submittal on November 15, 2014, which identifies what the council has achieved during the first half of the year, as well as helping to identify where the council might need to focus their planned activities over the next 6 months.

Mid-Year reports can be filed through the State Website. The link is:

[http://www.kofc-ms.org/programs/2015state\\_program\\_report\\_2015\\_20141022\\_distributed.pdf](http://www.kofc-ms.org/programs/2015state_program_report_2015_20141022_distributed.pdf).

Remember that the 2014-2015 State Goals for Programs are:

- 30% Increase in Total Activities Reported
  - 2200 Activities
- 100% Active Council Reporting
  - Every council submits a minimum of 1 activity this year
- 20% Increase in Councils Reporting 4 or more Activities in Each Category
- Double Best Project Submittals
- Triple Councils Submitting Best Projects

Remember, an active council is a healthy Council!

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## Hernando DeSoto Council 7120 Hosts First Pumpkin Patch

A few short weeks ago Council 7120 GK Ted Lander announced that the council would soon be hosting The Great Pumpkin Patch on the grounds of Christ the King in Southaven.

A week later Knights and their families met to unload over a thousand pumpkins to sell to the community.

With Halloween ending just

days ago the council is pleased to report the success of the event.

Proceeds from sales will go to support the various programs of the council.

Also, the council provided pumpkins to nearly 200 area youth at safe Halloween events at Christ the King and St. Gregory in Senatobia.

It took a combined effort of several council members to step outside of the box to make this event successful. Brother Knights that participated enjoyed the fraternity and community interaction that was provided. Talk is already going on as to how the event can be improved next year.



## Madison Council 9543 Places Crosses For Respect Life Month

Elton Vandevender and Dennis Riecke display a banner near a field of crosses on the grounds of St. Francis of Assisi church in Madison.

The 154 crosses are displayed by the Knights of Columbus each October for Respect Life Month. They represent the number of abortions performed each hour in the United States.



## Application Help Needed

The State Council is looking for individuals with skills in PHP, Javascript, MySQL, C#, .NET, HTML, CSS, web security, or related software to enhance current web-hosted tools and develop new tools including mobile applications.

Immediate needs include: converting [www.kofc-ms.org](http://www.kofc-ms.org) content to Wordpress (demo: [www.kofc-ms.org/wp](http://www.kofc-ms.org/wp)); evaluating current hosting service for possible move to new host; creating and maintaining multi-user access rights for program directors and others for contributing content to state web site; enabling and maintaining user self-service email tool to distribute Magnolia Knight and Good of the Order; extending and enhancing the State Directory ([http://www.kofc-ms.org/state\\_directory](http://www.kofc-ms.org/state_directory)); work with the Convention host committee to update/enhance the state convention registration (<http://tinyurl.com/osh3uh3>) and reporting (<http://tinyurl.com/ooseenr>) tools for 2015 Convention; build web-based state program reporting tool to replace the pdf version currently in use; create method to host Council-maintained web pages on [www.kofc-ms.org](http://www.kofc-ms.org) for local Councils that lack a web presence; update “find a Council” map tool (<http://tinyurl.com/owwf2kt>).

These activities support a State Council goal of developing easy to use tools and services to support the project activities and information-sharing needs of local Councils and members and connect State Officers, State Program Chairs, District Deputies and local officers and members. If you've used the state web site and related tools such as the State Directory and thought "I wish it would do ....," here is your chance to do something about it! Contact Ben Mokry, State Advocate, [bmokry@bellsouth.net](mailto:bmokry@bellsouth.net), 601.259.7926.

## Council 7120 Assists Family In Need

Council 7120 in Southaven recently answered to call to help a family in need. The Council was alerted to the needs of the family by Sacred Heart Southern Missions in Walls, MS. Council members took action to build an accessible ramp so that the residents may get into and out of their home more easily.



## Join The Father Michael McGivney Guild

The Father Michael McGivney Guild is open to anyone who desires to see our Venerable Founder raised to the honors of the altar.

The purpose of the Guild is to keep its members informed as to the progress of this quest and to solicit prayers of support for all concerned. It is well to remember that there is NO cost for membership and one of the benefits is the Guild Newsletter published every other month. I admit that I am biased, but I simply cannot understand why every Knight in our

Jurisdiction is not a member of the Guild.

Who would not like to be a member of an organization founded by a Saint of the Church? I have been the Chair of the McGivney Cause for about seven years and we have made slow progress each year as to the number of members of the Guild in our Jurisdiction. When the Guild was first established years ago, we had in the neighborhood of 115 members. Over the ensuing years that number has risen to just over 900. But that is a far cry from the number we ought to have. I am asking

District Deputies and Grand Knights to promote the McGivney Guild as often as you can. It is simple sign up procedure.

You can utilize the Supreme Council web page or sign up via mail using the coupon in every issue of COLUMBIA. (In the August issue the application is on Page32.) I ask each and every one of you, if you are not a member of the McGivney Guild, please take the two or three minutes to join. You certainly will not regret it and I again repeat that it costs you nothing!!

Vivat Jesus!

Tom Zettler, PSD



## Madison Council 9543 Honors Altar Servers

Nineteen current and fifteen new altar servers at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Madison attended a cruise on the Friendship Boat on Wednesday, October 1. It was sponsored by KC 9543 at St. Francis, which provided hamburgers and hot dogs for a total of 60 people on the cruise. They included Monsignor Michael Flannery, St. Francis altar server coordinators Keith and Cathy Comish, photographer Sheri Krause, and five members of KC 9543.

Each 2013-2014 altar server was presented an official Certificate of Appreciation by GK Tunney Vandevender and District Deputy (and PGK) Larry Roberts.



## Oxford Council Holds First Degree

Oxford Council 10901 would like to welcome Brother Knight Kyle Schmit to the order. Kyle received became a First Degree brother at a recent council exemplification.

Kyle is a Mechanical Engineering student for Picayune, MS.



## State Programs

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## Council Receives Highest Honor

Knights of Columbus Council 15131 of Jackson, MS has earned the distinction of Triple Star Council for the 2013-2014 fraternal year. The award recognizes overall excellence in the areas of membership recruitment (reaching 300% of quota thereby making it "triple star") and retention, promotion of fraternal insurance program, and sponsorship of service-oriented activities.

The award was presented to Worthy IPGK, Andre De Gruy at the Council business meeting held on 10/15/14 by Worthy State Deputy, Jim McCraw (pictures below). Brother McCraw entreated the council members to have "this award be a reminder and an inspiration to continue to promote the ideals of Columbianism for the good of the Church, community, and the Order.

