

Ohio State Council Knights of Columbus

May 20, 2023



State Deputy- Mark Siracusa

State General Program Director- Andrew Nuckols

Community Service Program Award

Brother Frank served as the chairman of Council's annual Coats for Kids program this year. The program was promoted via church bulletins and word of mouth throughout our Parish and Community. In addition to various individual donations, the local Ladies Auxiliary and Fourth Degree Assembly also donated. Together the Council set a record by raising \$3,380.00 which enabled the purchasing of 14 boxes of coats from Supreme program. The Coats were distributed to our local St. Vincent DePaul Society, Resurrections School in Price Hill (an Archdiocese Catholic Inner-City School), Caring Closet in Hamilton, as well as the local Fairfield schools.

For this reason, Ohio State Council is proud to recognize Father John W. Roettele Council #8115 "Coats for Kids" program as the 2022-2023 Community Activity of the Year.

Respectfully,
Duane A. Bassett
State Community Director

Community Service Program Award

"Coats for Kids"

Father John W. Roettele Council #8115,
Archdiocese of Cincinnati Diocese

Faith Service Program Award

In the early summery of 2022, the Council was approached by Pastoral Associate, asking if the council could help with funding a program that would be introduced for the 2022-23 school year. Our council has a long history of donating to programs with the parish school such as Education Funds, Catholic Schools Week, Walk-A-Thon and Vacation Bible School. Each homeroom would choose their own saint for the school year. Students would spend the year learning about the life, of their saint and do study and prayer devoted to that saint. This program was meant to be a living legacy for our retiring pastor and council chaplain. Whenever Father would visit the school children, he would always end his visit with the message “Live Like A Saint Today!” The Council funded the entire program 1) pictures of each saint and frames, 2) prayer cards for each saint, 3) books about the saints, and 4) storage containers for all the materials. When the school year kicked off last August, the materials for the project were in place. Students began learning about their classroom saint. The saints chosen represented saints from early times after the death and resurrection of Jesus, until recent times. Men and woman, young and old, the saints represented 6 of the 7 continents and a variety of life circumstances and pathways to faith. A list was provide of the 27 homerooms and their chosen saints. Classes had information about the saint on the outside the class and the photo of the saint on the wall or on a prayer table in the classroom, to reminded all the children in the class who was their saint and allowed them to pray to that saint each and every day of class.

For this reason, Ohio State Council is proud to recognize St. Dominic-Delhi Council #15533 “Live Like a Saint” the 2022-2023 Faith Activity of the Year!

Respectfully,
Tony Offenberger
State Faith Director

Faith Service Program Award

“Live Like a Saint”

St. Dominic-Delhi #15533, Archdiocese of Cincinnati

Family Service Program Award

State Deputy, Mark Siracusa, at the beginning of the Fraternal Year, encouraged Councils to get families involved in our Councils and Council activities. At its core, the Knights of Columbus is a family organization.

Piggybacking on that, State Family Director Joe Hartle, challenged Ohio Councils to find new ways to engage both our Council and parish families with Fun, Faith and Fraternity. This Council heard our call and responded with this Year's Family Activity of the Year.

The Council knew that at the foundation of a strong family is a strong married couple. More importantly, they recognized that young family involvement in their council was weak and lacking. Therefore, they endeavored to put together an event that would bring married couples together to experience firsthand the family-oriented nature of the Knights of Columbus. Their goal was to engage younger parish families to come together, enjoy time together, and see how the Knights of Columbus helps to foster better Fathers, better Husbands, and better Families, as a stepping off point to more family-oriented events in the Council and with their fellow parishioners.

To kick off this new campaign, this Council scheduled the first parish-wide dance held since 2000 at St. Edward the Confessor Church in Granville, Ohio. Planning began in August 2022. After publicizing the event, the Night Under the Stars Parish Dance was held in January 2023, with nearly 100 participants (capacity of the church hall) attending the event and enjoying an evening together. As part of the event, the Council distributed the "Daily Companion for Married Couples" booklet to each participant, fostering a Marriage Ministry intertwined with fun and gathering. In addition, the event included group dance lessons, a popular DJ, heavy hors d'oeuvres, a photo booth, and a goody bag containing a drinking glass memento for all attendees.

The event was a huge success. Not only did the council exceed its fundraising goal, which will provide additional funding for future family events, the Council secured a new Brother Knight and family while opening the door to many more new parishioners to learn more about the Knights of Columbus and how our Order is a family organization. The parish pastor, Monsignor Enke, described the event as the nicest parish social family event that he had ever attended in his 23 years as a pastor.

This Council exemplified exactly what our State Deputy impressed upon Ohio Councils. The Knights of Columbus is a family organization, and if you want new men to join your council, you better have activities and events that get the wives and families involved. The "Night Under the Stars Parish Dance" did just that, and has invigorated St. Edwards Council to sponsor more family activities to better serve their parish, community and most importantly, FAMILIES.

For these reasons, Ohio State Council is proud to recognize St. Edwards Council #10876, “Night Under the Stars Parish Dance” as the 2022-2023 Family Activity of the Year!

Respectfully,
Joseph Hartle
State Family Director

Family Service Program Award

“Night Under the Stars Parish Dance”

St. Edwards Council #10876, Columbus Diocese

Life Service Program Award

Two Councils united to publicize and conduct a Prayer Service for Day of the Unborn on the Feast of the Annunciation on Saturday March 25th at St. Ann's Catholic Church. The Feast of the Annunciation was also officially proclaimed as "The Day of the Unborn Child" in Argentina on March 25, 1999 in the presence of Archbishop of Boston Cardinal Bernard Law, the Secretary of the Pontifical Council for the Family. The establishment of this day as a pro-life memorial elicited a particularly noteworthy response from then Pope John Paul II who wrote to the Argentina's President Menen expressing the hope that this day would foster a positive choice in favor of life and the development of a culture oriented in that direction. This is the 9th consecutive year the councils have promoted and held the Prayer Service, including video streaming of the event during covid years. Parishioners of both St. Ann and Sacred Heart churches were notified on the event via church bulletin and web site announcements and promoted by two Councils. The prayer service focused on the respect for the sanctity of life and featured a Rosary led by Council members.

For these reasons, Ohio State Council is proud to recognize Father John W. Roettele Council #8115 "Prayer Service for Day of the Unborn" as the 2022-2023 Life Activity of the Year.

Respectfully,
Christopher Bercaw
State Life Director

Life Service Program Award

"Prayer Service for Day of the Unborn"
Father John W. Roettele Council #8115,
Archdiocese of Cincinnati Diocese

Ohio State Council - Youth of the Year

Our youth of the year is a senior at Berea Midpark High School, is a student who clearly goes beyond expectations. He is a student and young man whose involvement in academics, school, church, and community activities in which he lives, displays his dedicated commitment to serve them all equally well.

Academics puts in a selected class. He strives to be a top-notch student. Grade point average for the past four years being a 3.95. He has been on the Principal's List all four years at Berea Midpark High School, He has taken many honors classes and AP classes too numerous to mention and passed his Advance Placement (AP) classes with a score of 3 or 4.

He made a commitment to serving his school throughout his time at Berea Midpark High School. He has been a member of the school's Marching Band for all 4 years. Played 3 different instruments in the marching band. In 2022 he was recognized as an outstanding switch over band member. Also played in the Winds-Symphonic band, Jazz Band and Concert Band. Started in 8th grade playing the saxophone and during 11th grade made the switch to the Baritone Sax. In 2022 was selected to perform in the District IV & VII Honors Band. He performed with top musicians from all throughout the selected school districts.

His impressive school accomplishments merely paint a partial picture of his dedication to the community. He encourages those around him to serve the community. He has assisted with many community service projects the past year He worked on Community Service Efforts: Mary Queen of the Apostles Parish, Brook Park, OH, Scan Food Panty, Middleburg Heights, Big Creek Run, Middleburg Heights OH, Watershed Conservation, Cleveland Metroparks, OH, Scout Sunday, Pleasant Hills United Methodist Church, Middleburg Heights, OH, Safety Town Instructor, City of Brook Park, Wilderness Conservation, Philmont Scout Ranch, New Mexico and Audrey's Outreach, Brook Park OH. He is extremely involved in Boy Scouts and received many awards, and the Council supported Him with his Eagle Scout Project.

- Eagle Scout (pending paperwork from the Lake Erie Council)
- Boy Scout Ranks: Life, Star, First Class, Second Class and Tenderfoot
- Boy Scout Merit Badges: 13 required badges- First Aid, Citizenship in the Community, Citizenship in the Nation, Citizenship in the World, Citizenship in Society, Communication, Cooking, Personal Fitness, Life Saving, Environmental Science, Personal Management, Swimming, Camping and Family Life.
- 10 additional badges to complete Eagle Scout requirements- Archery, Canoeing, Rifle Shooting, Wood Carving, Wilderness Survival, Safety, Public Speaking, Hiking, Animation, recycling.
- Boy Scout Polar Bear Award
- Boy Scout 100 nights of camping award!

- Troop Leadership Positions: Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader and Troop Historian
- High Adventure Trips Philmont, Scout Ranch, New Mexico, crew position during Philmont as Chaplain's Aid and Sea Base in Florida.

He is busy everyday schedule, still interacts with the Knights of Columbus, He works side by side with his father, a Past Grand Knight, at the parish Pancake Breakfasts, Parish Ground Camp Outs supported by the Council, Youth Free Throw and Soccer Challenge Championship.

He is an incredibly talented young man who puts family and friends, school, community, church and academic in perspective, not only via his exemplary record, but also through his incredible ability to have influence with those around him.

It is with great pleasure that Gavin Fronek be awarded the 2022-2023 Ohio State Council Youth of the Year.

Respectfully,
Duane A. Bassett
State Community Director

Ohio State Council - Youth of the Year

Gavin Fronek

Brook Park Council #13984, Cleveland Diocese

Ohio State Council - Family of the Year

This year's Family of the Year Honoree is a wonderful family that truly exemplifies the virtues of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity. They are actively involved in many Knights of Columbus activities and are a highly respected and recognized family in their Parish. Rarely does a week pass without at least one member of this year's Family of the Year helping out with a Knights' or Parish activity.

In nominating the Family, the Council stated *"This family is the glue of the parish and can be relied upon any time to render service to the church or community."*

This is demonstrated week in and week out by the family's assistance with greeting and ushering, assistance to the elderly parishioners, attendance at Mass, participation on Parish Council, Mass preparation, priest assistance, coordination of families to take up the Sacramental Gifts, music during Christmas Mass celebration. The list goes on and on.

Tom is a 3rd Degree member with Council, joining the Order four years ago. Since joining the Order, Tom has joined the exemplification team to help exemplify new members into our Order, and is an active participant in many Council activities and events throughout the year. As the Council's Family Director describes them, there is rarely a Knights of Columbus activity that the Family, including the children, are not somehow involved. This includes participation in the Council's Food for Families program, Breakfast with Santa, Lenten Fish Frys, Pancake Breakfasts, Christmas Alumni Soup Supper, and the council parish picnic, just to name a few. In support of the Measure Up Campaign, Tom personally stood outside for 16 hours collecting money, helping to raise more than \$2,500 for those with developmental disabilities. In addition, Tom attends Council meetings monthly and often leads the rosary service prior to the meeting.

Melanie home schools her five children, and also founded and leads "Three Hearts" a local Catholic Home School Co-op. The group meets twice a month for First Friday Mass, classes, and field trips. In addition to being a mother, wife and teacher, Melanie also supports the Parish Bereavement Committee, providing food for funeral lunches, as well as serving as Vice-Coordinator of her local American Heritage Girls Troop.

We could spend the rest of the evening describing this wonderful family and still only make a small dent in outlining all they do. This Family exemplifies all that our Order calls us to do. This is truly an entire family who puts their Faith in Action on a daily basis.

For the 2022-2023 Fraternal Year, the Ohio State Council is very proud to honor Tom and Melanie Pestak, of Fr. Alphonse Schumacher Council #1801 in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, along with their five children, Winnie, Katie, John, Joey & Tommy, as Ohio Family of the Year.

Respectfully,
Joseph Hartle
State Family Director

Ohio State Council - Family of the Year

Tom and Melanie Pestak Family

Fr. Alphonse Schumacher Council # 1801

Archdiocese of Cincinnati

Ohio State Council - Chaplain of the Year

This young priest was ordained to the priesthood in 2018. Assigned to St Mary's Church in 2020 as a parochial vicar. After the abrupt departure of the pastor in April 2021, Father stepped right in to take the job. Father shared his vision of a welcome back homecoming with an outdoor mass at the newly constructed Marian grotto followed by a festival. This August 28th event was attended by over 700 people. He has proved to be an exceptional spiritual and administrative leader for the parish and school of 300 students.

(Please direct your attention to video screen for YouTube clip <https://youtu.be/Rzxc8l0JXXY>).

It is with great pleasure to announce the 2022-2023 Ohio State Council Chaplain of the Year to Father Brett Garland! From St. John XXIII Council #14502.

Respectfully,
Tony Offenberger
State Faith Director

Ohio State Council - Chaplain of the Year

Father Brett Garland

Delaware Council #1056, Columbus Diocese

Blessed Michael McGivney Award

Reverend Edward Hoffmann is an exceptional chaplain who embodies the ideals of Christian faith and love. As a teacher of the faith, he established a monthly family program that educates adults and children in catechism and provides families with practical ways to integrate their faith into daily life. Furthermore, he created a Saturday morning men's group that fosters fraternity and spiritual growth. Through prayer and asceticism, the group inspires men to lead better lives for their loved ones and each other.

Fr. Hoffmann's devotion to his vocation is evident in his establishment of a Saturday morning Mass with Confessions and adoration, and his promotion of first Saturday devotion to Our Lady. He also makes the priest vocation accessible to children and families by visiting them regularly in their homes for dinner; building Catholic fraternity and showing love and care for his community.

As chaplain of the Council, Fr. Hoffmann delivers Chaplain's messages, explaining current feasts and events in the church in a way that is easy to understand. He is a role model to the parish, inspiring members to live their faith to the fullest.

In summary, Fr. Hoffmann's dedication, commitment, and love have made a profound impact on the lives of his parishioners, encouraging them to live their faith with greater purpose and devotion. His leadership in establishing various programs that promote Christian values and his genuine interactions with his community make him a remarkable chaplain who is well-loved and respected.

Father Hoffmann's impact on the parish community and the council extends beyond the programs he has established and the events he has organized. He has a unique ability to connect with people and build relationships, which has created a strong sense of unity and fellowship within the community. He is known for his caring and compassionate nature, and his unwavering commitment to serving the needs of others.

Furthermore, Father Hoffmann's impending departure from the parish and the Archdiocese to serve as a military chaplain for the US Army exemplifies the fourth pillar of the Knights of Columbus - Patriotism. His decision to serve his country and fellow citizens in this way is a testament to his character, and his continued dedication to serving others. As Father Hoffmann leaves July 1st, 2024, he only has one more year to serve our parish and council. Therefore, the recognition of his efforts through this award would be an opportunity to honor his impact and legacy within our community.

In addition, Father Hoffmann's reception of this award would serve as a great honor not only to him but also to the parish community, particularly the young families. It would increase the council's outreach to these families, many of whom have yet to become Knights but could be inspired to do so by Father Hoffmann's example.

It is with great pleasure to announce the 2022-2023 Ohio State Council Blessed Michael McGivney Award to Father Edward Hoffmann from Father Butler Council #968.

Respectfully,
Tony Offenberger
State Faith Director

Blessed Michael McGivney Award

Father Edward Hoffmann

Father Butler Council #968, Archdiocese of Cincinnati

Ohio State Council - Knight of the Year

This man symbolizes all that a Knight should, in every way possible. He is the treasurer of his council. He is a leader among our council officers who is respected and admired for his service. He is a supporter of his priest, a recognized leader in his parish, and a community activist for Christian causes.

He has exemplified the principles of The Knights of Columbus in every way possible. He is charitable in his service; has unified our council into a cohesive whole and is mapped to the fraternity of our parish and faith. Mark has made a lasting contribution to our community. He has for the last four years supported the “Catch the Building Spirit Program” – an affiliate program for Habitat for Humanity. Last year he contributed over 500 hours of service to build a new house for a needy family. This meant that he was at the job site for over three months every day that the site was open for people to work on this building project. Not only did he support this year’s project but has also contributed the same level of support for the three years prior. This equates to over 2000 hours of service. He has been involved in building four new houses for the ground up for needy families in our area. He is constantly congratulated for these efforts and has been recognized by the founders of the “Catch the Building Spirit Project” as one of their most significant contributors.

This man has recently been named the director of our Parish Building and Grounds Committee. In this capacity, he is responsible for the church building, the rectory, the primary school of religion classrooms, and the various storage sheds that are part of the property. A recent example of an incident that occurred with local wildlife. The students and teachers for our primary school of religion were smelling various obnoxious scents from their classroom areas. After investigation, Mark discovered that a family of raccoons had moved into the crawl space over the classrooms. Since the classrooms are the lower level of our rectory, this also posed a problem to Father Bernie, his pastor, who is occupying the rectory as his home. He discovered that this family of raccoons had built a nest in the eaves of the crawl space and had moved in several months earlier leaving a significant problem with both repairs and cleaning. As you can imagine, the crawl space wasn’t easy to negotiate and move through. After several days of work, He was able to make the repairs and clean up the area to make the structure both safe and livable. This was certainly a task that was just one example of the work required by the building and grounds committee. The family of raccoons were trapped and turned over to the local animal control group in our county.

He is a member of our parish St Vincent DePaul committee. He has been our council spokesperson for the St Vincent De Paul group. His latest task is to see how the St Vincent De Paul committee can help a family with major roof repairs needed to their home. This is a huge project. The damage occurred during a recent windstorm in the local area.

It is with great pleasure to announce the 2022-2023 Ohio State Council Knight of the Year to Mark Callahan! From Ft. Joseph Lutmer Council #17092

Respectfully,
Christopher Bercaw
State Life Director

Ohio State Council - Knight of the Year

Mark Callahan

Fr. Joseph Lutmer Council #17092, Archdiocese of Cincinnati