



OHIO STATE COUNCIL KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

**Report of the State Officers,
Directors and Chairmen**

125th STATE CONVENTION

OHIO STATE COUNCIL
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

COVINGTON, KENTUCKY – MAY 18, 2024



2023 - 2024

REPORT OF THE STATE DEPUTY

-Welcome

I would like to extend fraternal greetings and best wishes to our clergy, my Brother Knights, ladies, and guests of this 125th Annual Ohio State Council Convention conducted this May 17-19, 2024 at the Northern Kentucky Convention Center. It has truly been an honor to serve you as your State Deputy this past fraternal year.

-Our Theme

As you all know by now, our theme for my term as State Deputy is, ***“Let Us Be Worthy of the World He Died to Save!”*** There were no revelations or voices from God answering my prayers about this theme. None that I am aware of anyway. But, I often times meditated on the passion and death of our Lord, Jesus Christ. I especially thought about it during Lent, while reciting our council’s weekly, Friday evening Stations of the Cross. One can only imagine how agonizing and painful of an ordeal that Jesus endured. Why? Why would someone go through something as horrible as this? It’s no wonder why God chose this time in our history to send his son. The Romans were experts in methods of putting someone to death that were more gruesome and painful than anytime in our history. His death would certainly have an impact on the world for hundreds, even thousands of years to come. We all know that Jesus endured this agonizing death to save us from our sins and to make this world a much better place to live. So, we as Knights, must lead our lives, continuing to do our good works, just as our Lord, Jesus Christ showed and taught his Apostles and all those who followed. Are we living our lives as Catholic gentlemen? Are we worthy of being called a Knight of Columbus? Are we ***worthy, of the world He died to save?***

-State General Program

Not only do we need to attract new members by being active, but we need programs and activities to keep our members interested and engaged in order to retain them as Knights of Columbus. Attracting new members should be a priority, and we do this through council activities.

I wanted a simple approach to our general program while striving to stay as close as possible to the model of the past 2 state Programs under Bob Byers and Mark Siracusa, in order to maintain some consistency in programing. I once again chose to keep it close to the criteria of the Supreme Council “Faith In Action” Program, which is the same criteria for the Star Council award. This award judges and awards a grand knight and council for achieving the basic objectives of the ideal council. Those objectives include growth in membership, faith based and charitable service programs, insurance promotion, and council administrative reports that Supreme Council requires for communication purposes and to maintain our tax-exempt status. So, we took the criteria of the Star Council Award and created the “Let Us Be Worthy” State Program.

Our goal, and hope, was to make it very easy for a council report its’ activities, to have all councils in Ohio actively participate in our state program, and have 59 councils from the State of Ohio make “Star Council”. In order to make this happen, we decided that we needed to revert back to our old method of reporting council reports on the Ohio State Council website. We were questioned and met some resistance to this change, but decided that it was necessary to simplify reporting, grading, and monitoring council progress in real time.

State General Program Director Michael Jordan and State Directors were up to the challenge.

I want to thank the State Retention and New Council Development Director, Brother Michael Friel and our State Hispanic Director, Robert Hernandez for an outstanding job this past fraternal year. We can only now look forward to expanding a Knights of Columbus presence to new areas in Ohio that do not presently enjoy the benefits of a local council and once again becoming a leader in new council development.

-Council Rejuvenation

We have a number of councils in the state that have been struggling to remain active the past several years. There are many reasons that may affect the life of a council. Some are due to a closing or merging of parishes in our dioceses, lack of young people attending Mass and practicing their Catholic faith, lack of young Catholic men willing to give their time and be involved in the Order's work, and the lack of training and leadership in our councils. Some of these struggling councils have serious issues getting new leaders and officers. The "Let us be Worthy" Council Rejuvenation Program that I initiated this year has been created to specifically address these issues. A new emphasis has been placed on helping struggling councils to get back to their days of being a vibrant and active council. We have established in each diocese in Ohio, a Diocesan Council Rejuvenation Team that has been working to revitalize councils experiencing problems, assist in the reactivation of suspended councils, or being a resource to help councils with the merger process. These teams consist of a Diocesan Council Rejuvenation Coordinator, the Diocesan District Deputy Coordinator, the Diocesan Growth Coordinator, the District Deputy, and the State Officer from that diocese. This concept is still in its infancy and we are learning as we go. We do not claim to have all the answers or to be able to wave a magic wand and solve all the problems of a council. Our hope has been to identify these struggling councils and provide needed help to keep our members involved and engaged.

I want to thank our PSD Ken Girt for chairing our team of Diocesan coordinators and for his input in starting and establishing the Rejuvenation program. My thanks also go out to our Diocesan team of Coordinators

Diocesan Rejuvenation Coordinators:

Dave Helmstetter	Cincinnati Archdiocese
Bob Walsh	Cleveland Diocese
Kevin Miller	Columbus Diocese
Bob Byers	Steubenville Diocese
Matt Smith	Toledo Diocese
Ken Girt	Youngstown Diocese

-Insurance

We are truly blessed with an excellent group of men dedicated to our Order and the financial protection of our families. Each one of them is a full-time employee of our Order, and day in and day out, give us as Brother Knights, their total concern for our family's financial well-being, and do all that they can to help fulfill Blessed Father McGivney's Dream. My thanks to our State Insurance Liasson, Dave Roberts, who keeps me as well as our General Agents up to date on all matters involving our Insurance Group.

The three General Agents of Ohio are Brothers Jason Staas, John Spencer, and Ross Conklin. The General Insurance Agents with the addition of many new Field Agents continue to respond to the insurance needs of our members and their families, to provide an excellent product of insurance benefits, and to assist in the exploration of potential new growth within our state. Please take every advantage of these fine gentlemen with not only your insurance needs but with their assistance with Parish Drives, Membership Promotion, and Fraternal Benefit Events within your council. All of them are excellent recruiters; well versed and able to help secure that new member.

Despite our “Fast Start” Growth incentives, we didn’t get off to a very fast start. We only averaged around 130 members per month for the first 6 months, which put us at only around 40% of our quota of 1860 new members. All of a sudden, January recruiting took off with 172 members, our best month for the year, which was topped in February with 178. And then came March. Talk about coming in like a lion, councils caught fire and brought in a whopping 227 new members. This put us right back in the driver’s seat for our Circle of Honor goal at 75% and only around 450 more members need over the last 3 months. As we prepare for this year’s 125th State Convention, we are gearing up for a strong finish that will put over the top and get us our Circle of Honor Quota. But we need your help to continue bringing in those new members at the torrid pace that we have been growing this 2nd half of the Fraternal year. Thank you once again to our State Growth Director, Andrew Nuckols and his well-oiled machine of a Growth team. More importantly, thank you to all of the councils here in Ohio, that are working so hard to bring Growth and the Circle of Honor back into the State of Ohio.

-E-Membership

Online Membership was designed to allow eligible Catholic men to join the Knights of Columbus online, through a streamlined, optimized process. Signing up a member through the online process is almost instantaneous, taking only about 3-5 minutes to complete the process. Online Membership provides a new member with a digital membership experience, which will also help him to grow as a Catholic man and a Knight, as well as help him to decide if a regular council membership is right for him.

I want to thank our State Online Membership Director, Greg Singular, who has done a fantastic job of taking E-Membership to a whole new level. At the start of the year, I asked Greg to develop and promote our monthly bulletin blurb promotion. Each month, Greg puts out a new 2 or 3 sentence blurb ready to insert into a council’s parish bulletin promoting the Knights of Columbus and encouraging potential members to join either online or through a council’s membership team. Greg even came up with a bulletin blurb incentive promotion that we used during the 3rd quarter.

To date, Greg has helped bring in 1012 new E-Members, well on his way to passing our goal of 1050 new E-Members. This is the most, new online members signed up for Ohio in 1 year since the start of E-membership. The previous highest amount was 940 in the Pandemic Fraternal year of 2020-21. We are also currently at 58% of all new online members being converted to a regular council membership. If you haven’t used Greg’s Bulletin Blurbs in your parish bulletin yet, check the past issues of the Beacon state Newsletter for different blurbs that you may use for your council’s parish bulletin message. They definitely work.

-New Council Development

A new council was started this year, Seat of Wisdom Council 18322 at Miami University in Oxford with the help of Robert Hernandez and DD #7 Danny Sprouse

Another new council should be established very soon at St. Elias Melkite in Brooklyn

We are still working to start new councils at:

University of Akron Neuman Center

Our Lady of the Rosary – Greenhills

The Ohio State University – St Thomas Moore Neuman Center - Columbus

Although we were not be able to obtain the goal that we set, the opportunity to establish many more councils in Ohio still exists.

Our State Program directors are as follows:

State Family Director Tim Mangan
State Community Director Joseph Hartle
State Life Director Stewart Vetter
State Faith Director Mark Kahanca
Thank you, gentlemen for all your hard work.

The four Faith In Action activities in the 4 program areas is the Supreme requirement for the Star Council award. So, we mirrored this supreme requirement to have councils already qualified for the Supreme Columbian Award requirement and be that much closer to Star Council. We are now hoping that all councils submit their Columbian Award application via the Form SP-7 by June 30. In addition to a special growth quota for our contest, we also added a non-Faith In Action council elective activity to encourage more council activity. Council participation in our state council fundraisers was encouraged, but was used only as a program tiebreaker. Honorees of the year were also once again required, but points awarded were doubled to help encourage councils to submit honorees in the four program areas.

-The End Result of our State General Program Contest

23 councils maxed the state “Let Us Be Worthy” program by completing 4 Faith in Action activities in all 4 Program areas, 1 non-faith elective activity, submitted 4 Honorees of the Year, had all 4 council directors’ youth compliant, met the Supreme Growth Quota, and completed all 8 Administrative requirements. Another 88 councils compiled 500 – 988 points

The breakdown of Councils reporting an activity in each area is as follows:

- Life – 148 Councils 730 Life activities
- Community – 171 Councils 1023 Community activities
- Faith – 165 Councils 924 Life activities
- Family – 158 Councils 714 Family activities
- Membership – 474 Growth activities

-Membership Growth Supreme Goal of 1860 New Members

MEMBERSHIP GROWTH and RETENTION--along with New Council Development and/ or Rejuvenation—continue to remain the key ingredients for the growth of the Ohio State Council, and more importantly, our local councils. Not only do we need to attract new members by being active, but we need programs and activities that are so stimulating that they encourage our members to be motivated enough to invite other men to get involved in the Knights of Columbus. Throughout this fraternal year, we have heard ideas and promotions regarding attracting new members from our State Growth director Andrew Nuckols and our Diocesan Growth Coordinators, who met monthly to discuss our progress & to brainstorm new growth activity in the State of Ohio.

State Diocesan Growth Directors:

Mark Kosobud Cincinnati Archdiocese-South
Vic Lauterbach Cincinnati Archdiocese-North
Mike Incorvati Cleveland Diocese
Eric Yang Columbus Diocese
Erol Hosdil Steubenville Diocese
Willi Meyer Toledo Diocese
Dom Capezzuto Youngstown Diocese

-Special Olympics

The Ohio Knights of Columbus as an organization is one of the top organizational contributors to Special Olympics in the state. Something that we can all be very proud of.

Council Special Olympic grants from councils around the State of Ohio for this Fraternal year amounted to \$102,504, which was more than \$20,000 over last year's contributions.

In addition to this amount, the Ohio State Council will be presenting another \$28,000 to the Ohio Special Olympics this year, bringing our total Special Olympic contributions to over \$130,000.

On behalf of all the citizens in Ohio with developmental disabilities, thank you for your generosity and dedication to our Measure Up program.

I would like to recognize our 2023 State Measure Up Chairman, State Advocate, Christopher Sarka for another successful Measure Up Campaign.

-Matching Funds Campaign

I would like to personally thank all the Brother Knights and their families who have made the 2023 Matching Funds Campaign another success here in Ohio.

A total of 146 Councils and 7 Assemblies participated, raising \$36,856. A \$25,000 Matching Fund Grant was awarded by the Ohio Charity Foundation bringing the campaign total to \$61,856. These contributions will support the many agencies, programs and schools throughout the six Catholic Dioceses of Ohio providing religious educational services to the local parishes and schools. We as a brotherhood have demonstrated our continuing support of religious education. The real success of this annual campaign will be measured by the educational materials that the Catholic people of each diocese will continue to receive in the years to come.

On behalf of all the Directors of Religious Education throughout Ohio, I thank you for your generosity and dedication to this program.

I would like to recognize State Matching Funds Chairman for 2023, State Advocate Chris Sarka for another successful Matching Funds.

-Super Cash Bonanza

As I write this summary of the fraternal year the 2024 Super Cash Bonanza Campaign is well underway. State Treasurer Jim Maslach, AKA "Cashman" and his "Road Show" Team did a great job of presenting the campaign to the membership. The idea and rewards of a good partnering program along with strong council ticket sales was stressed. We have no doubt that this will once again be a record year in sales. Hopefully we reach that \$1,000,000.

-Football Frenzy Sweepstakes Program

The Football Frenzy Sweepstakes program has continued to provide local councils an opportunity to earn money for their general operating funds. A total of 243 councils participated in the 2023 Football Sweepstakes. Total ticket sales were over 25,500, which were slightly up over last year's sales and almost 72% of our goal of 35,960 football tickets. Because of this increase, councils were able to reap nearly \$240,000.00 in rebates and State per capita reductions. There were 160 councils that earned credit towards their State per capita. It has also given the state council the ability to supplement our significant decrease in state per capita income, allowing us to continue operating while providing the same benefits that our membership has enjoyed over the years.

I would like to recognize State Fund Raising Chairman PSD Gary Eckstein for running another successful Football Frenzy Campaign. Few of us know what goes on behind the scenes and what it takes to chair a program of this importance. I cannot thank him enough for what he does for everyone at the State Council.

-March Madness Basketball Sweepstakes

The March Madness Basketball Sweepstakes was a general mail program that had a limited ticket distribution to a database of prior ticket purchasers and targeted just the Final Four portion of the NCAA March Madness basketball tournament. A low-key sweepstakes campaign was run so as not to interfere with the Super Cash Bonanza Program. After several discussions with Chairman Gary Eckstein, I decided to go along with his proposal and expand the final four program to be run over the entire NCAA March Madness basketball tournament. This would also entail raising the price of a purchased ticket, increasing the prize payout, and over time, expanding our ticket distribution database.

With a still limited ticket sales of 3,398 tickets, the State Council earned over \$30,000.00 for general operating and state convention expenses. The net profit was nearly double the profit from our previous year. Thank you to everyone who participated in this extra fundraising effort. I still believe that this may be Ohio's sleeping giant of a fundraiser.

Please contact PSD Gary Eckstein if you are not currently on the mailing list for March Madness basketball tickets and would like to be on the list for next year's tournament.

Once again, I would like to again recognize State Fund Raising Chairman PSD Gary Eckstein for taking on the additional duties to run this campaign for the Ohio State Council.

-State Council Website

With thanks to a lot of thought and planning, we have a website that has evolved over time and is highly informative. It is just not a website anymore. It has become a great communication tool for the state council. The site has the ability to instruct and inform our members. It is able to give the members the ability to once again report their council program activities, find answers to most of their questions, download any of the forms that they need, and the opportunity to grow as a member, as a council, and as a jurisdiction.

I would personally like to thank State Webmaster Thomas Buehner for all the time and efforts he has put forth to make the State Website as functional as possible and especially for redoing our State Program online reporting system and making it work. We also look to him for greater things to come within the electronic realms of the State Council Website.

-Beacon State Newsletter

"Communications are so very, very important", the words of my good friend and mentor, former Buckeye Bulletin editor, Harding Christ. It has been a few years since Harding put out his last issue of the Buckeye Bulletin. It continued until sometime in 2016, even after PSD Bob Collins sent out a monthly electronic publication in 2015, the "Voice of the Spirit". The Voice continued with SD Kevin Miller and later on the Buckeye Blast, another print version put out quarterly by PSD Bob Byers, provided most of our communications by the State Council. These regular publications all went away the last couple of years and were sorely missed

Thanks to my Administrative Assistant, Phil Salasek, who has been helping me with our Youngstown Diocese monthly Newsletter "The Youngstown Connection", we once again have a regular monthly form of communication, our state newsletter, "The Beacon". Thank you, Phil, for stepping up and for all of your help and for putting this very important communication tool together. Thank you also to all the State Officers, Directors, and everyone who takes the time to write and submit an article, which really helps us to get so much news information out to our councils and team around the state.

-COR

Cor is a new faith-based initiative of the Supreme Council that focuses on the Evangelization and Faith Formation of the Men of the Parish. Its purpose is to form and strengthen Knights and the Catholic men of the parish in faith and virtue. Each Cor meeting does this by strengthening relationships with Jesus Christ and one another, through three Key Elements; Prayer, Formation, and Fraternity. The word ‘cor’ is Latin for heart, and is the root of the word, courage. Prayer, Formation, and Fraternity all begin with the heart and direct the heart in relationship with God and each other in true charity.

The goals of each Cor meeting are to provide the opportunity for Catholic men:

- to encounter Christ
- to strengthen their bonds of brotherhood
- to share their faith, as brothers, bringing souls to Jesus Christ.

Blessed Father McGivney intended the council to be a means of forming and strengthening the faith of our members so it impacts and directs all that they do. Every council is invited to hold a Cor session at least once a month, in addition to the monthly council meeting.

I wish to thank our State Director of Evangelization and Faith Formation, Arron Mier, from the Toledo Diocese, for his time and effort to establish and initiate COR here in the State of Ohio. Also assisting Arron in his efforts to build COR in all dioceses in the state were:

Archdiocese of Cincinnati	Robert Richter & Chris Bozelle
Diocese of Columbus	Greg Maney
Diocese of Cleveland	Ty Tyjewski
Diocese of Youngstown	Pete Rich
Diocese of Steubenville	Tony Offenberger

-Support Our Seminarians (SOS)

The Support Our Seminarians program continues to be one of the shining stars of the State Council’s fund-raising efforts. From its conception in 1991, beginning as a simple “pass the hat” pocket change collection, it has become the pride of our efforts as Brother Knights in the funding of religious vocations. We started this Fraternal Year by passing out checks totaling \$162,285 to our 6 Diocesan Vocations Directors during our July State Tour Meetings held in each diocese in the State of Ohio.

I would like to thank Past State Deputy, Bob Byers for his role in raising that amount last fraternal year, and I wish to recognize Mark Siracusa, IPSD for another successful SOS campaign this year, collecting \$161,842 which will again be presented during our July State Tour Meetings.

-Measure Up Campaign

I would like to personally thank all the Brother Knights and their families who have made the 2023 Measure Up Campaign another success! There were 144 Councils that participated in the campaign and raised almost \$274,000 for those in the State of Ohio with Developmental Disabilities. Their contributions will benefit over 150 agencies, programs and schools throughout Ohio that provide services to these citizens with developmental disabilities. We as Knights of Columbus and charitable men have demonstrated our continued support of the Measure Up Program and year after year have shown that Measure Up is truly our “flagship” charity for the State of Ohio.

-Star Council Reports

59 Star councils! That has been our objective for the State of Ohio since July 1.

Why is it so important for us to achieve star council? The Supreme Star Council award is our Order's flagship award for successful councils. It recognizes and rewards all of the efforts by active councils in all of the areas that represent the principles of our Order. An active council is one that does so many great events and activities for its members, families, parishes, as in communities. This, in turn, generates genuine interest in the council by its members, which keeps the members involved, engaged, and rewarded by the council's achievements. New members are attracted as well, because they see the wonderful things being done by this active council and want to be a part of these accomplishments.

PSD Ken Girt has been tracking all the Star Council criteria on a monthly basis and has been issuing a comprehensive report that gives us as State Officers, District Deputies, and Grand Knights, all the up-to-date information that we need to evaluate a council's progress towards achieving Star Council. We are able to see from Ken's report any area that a council may be lacking in plenty of time to address and help that council fulfill the requirements in a timely manner.

Many thanks to PSD Ken Girt, our State Special Reports Chairman and Star Council Guru.

-Our Patriotic Degree

We thank the Brother Knights that serve this great State of Ohio with distinction as Masters of the patriotic Fourth Degree under Vice Supreme Master Edward Ponder of the Father Hennepin Province. The District Masters for Ohio this past Fraternal year are Christopher Bush, Michael Gauder, and Brandon Robinson.

-Right to Life

This past year, the Bishops in Ohio asked the Knights of Columbus to help defeat the ballot initiative to change our state constitution. It was an initiative to allow a very terrible and extreme right to abortion in Ohio. We are well aware of the unfortunate outcome of the election this past November as well as the horrific consequences. We all know too well the task that is before us as Knights and the need for us to do all that we can to change the mindset of this culture of death.

I want to thank the councils and members from the State of Ohio for all of your efforts to try and defeat this initiative. From the very beginning of this fight, the Knights of Columbus were at the very forefront, standing up for Life. 20 councils arranged, sponsored, or co-sponsored bus loads of Pro-Life supporters and Brother Knights and their families to the Ohio March for Life this past October. We definitely sent a strong message for life. Unfortunately, the Planned Parenthood factions outspent our movement and pretty much bought the outcome with false and misleading advertisements. I want to thank our State Life Director, Stew Vetter and State Advocate, Chris Sarka, for taking the lead and all their help and efforts in organizing this undertaking as well as getting information out to everyone throughout the state. Brothers, we have much work to do.

-The Ultrasound Initiative

I would like to send out a special "Thank You" to the councils and Grand Knights for successful fundraising to purchase Ultrasound Machines in their local areas:

St Joseph #11370 in Maumee
St Denis #1756 in Versailles
St Ladislav #16373 in Westlake
Gilmour #310 in Mayfield Heights
Most recent application:
For a machine for Veranova Health in Middleburg Heights.

May God bless them for their extraordinary Pro-Life efforts. I also know we have some others that are still in process.

-ASAP

ASAP (Aid and Support After Pregnancy) is a new Supreme Council featured program to support pregnant women, mothers, and their children, both born and unborn, by serving pregnancy resource centers and maternity homes. Pregnancy resource centers provide assistance to nearly 2 million clients each year. These organizations, and the women and babies they serve, are in dire need of financial contributions, donations of material goods, and other volunteer services. Despite the essential services pregnancy resource centers provide to women and their new children, 90% of funding for pregnancy centers is raised locally. And unlike Planned Parenthood, 80% of these centers receive no government funding. Through ASAP, for every \$500 a council or assembly donates to a qualifying non-profit pregnancy resource center or maternity home the Supreme Council will issue a \$100 grant to the same qualifying organization.

So far, this Fraternal Year, the State of Ohio is 5th in the Order in council participation with 84 councils that have contributed to the ASAP program. Councils have donated almost \$134,000 to 74 centers in the State of Ohio, which currently ranks us 7th in the Order in donations.

You can apply for Supreme grant funds online at kofc.org/asap.

As part of the state convention, we will, again, Pass the Hat for ASAP. Last year, we raised \$2,600 that went to support pregnancy centers. Our goal this year is \$3,500. This is a state versus state competition sponsored by Supreme. If we raise the most money in division 1, Ohio gets an addition \$1,500 for the general fund. No matter what, Supreme will match 25% of all money raise.

-Finances

As the convention Audit Committee discovered from our annual audit by the accounting firm of Blue & Co., the Ohio State Council is financially solvent with no financial debt. We continue to use the QuickBooks Pro on-line version, which enables the fiscal officers (State Deputy, State Secretary and State Treasurer) to edit and monitor the real time status of our finances.

We continue to maintain four Chase Bank accounts: our General account for routine deposits and check writing for our general operating expenses, our Fundraising account for the Football and Basketball deposits, winners checks and council rebate checks, our Measure Up account, which we deposit the 20% of the annual Measure Up collection, and a fairly recent established State Convention account which helps us to keep all state convention income and expenses separate from the general operating expenses and allows us to continually monitor our state conventions from year to year.

The finances of the State Council continue to be a challenge. We as State Officers, constantly strive to find ways to enhance our programs rather than eliminate or cut funding to them. We have taken measures to reduce costs in many areas, and are constantly discussing different scenarios to reduce our costs. but still there are times where we find it hard to make ends meet.

With an aging membership who have become exempt from paying dues, the significant increase in the number of deaths, and now the loss of members who are placed on the Supreme Affiliate roster, we again are presented with a significant loss in state per capita revenue.

The Ohio membership is by far the least taxed of all jurisdictions, yet they are one of the most compensated. Very few states pay their delegates as well as we do to attend their annual state convention.

-District Deputies

The work of a District Deputy cannot go unnoticed. The job of a District Deputy is not that of a titleholder anymore. They have become an integral part of the State Council. They have been given a great responsibility to present, to promote, and to monitor all the programs the State Council sets before them. You are the direct channel of communication between your councils and your diocesan state officer, keeping us all up to date with the status of the councils in your district. We know all too well that being a District Deputy is not an easy task. We also realize that you sacrifice many evenings away from your family in the workings of your office.

I, as State Deputy, and in unison with the State Officers, would sincerely like to thank you for all the hours of service you have provided to the State Council. May God continue to give you strength to continue your work and bless each one of you in your efforts.

Thank you to Chris Dodson, our State District Deputy Director and all our district deputies who stepped forward and accepted the challenge during this past fraternal year. I look forward working with you again for the next fraternal year and I hope you will help us promote growth within the councils in your district, our Star Council initiative, our State General Program Contest, and encourage your councils to initiate COR into their council's repertoire. We appreciate everything you do for the State Council and for the Order. And thanks to our Diocesan District Deputy Coordinators for their valuable service:

John Hoffman	(Cincinnati)
Teran Taggart	(Cleveland)
Dave Bogner	(Columbus)
Tom Offenberger	(Steubenville)
Tim Bohls Jr.	(Toledo)
Matt Meyer	(Youngstown)

-Appreciation

Just as any team depends on the support of all its members, the Ohio State Council depends heavily on the contributions of its "team". The State Deputy cannot do it alone. So, I want to thank this great "team" of ours. It has been an honor to serve with such a talented team of State Officers, Directors, Chairmen, Staff, and District Deputies.

I will start by thanking our State Chaplain and Spiritual Leader, Father Jim Lang, Immediate Past State Deputy, Mark Siracusa, State Secretary, Mike Felerski, State Treasurer, Jim Maslach, State Advocate, Chris Sarka, and State Warden, Tony Offenberger.

I thank you fellow officers for the continued direction, fraternity, and patience during my first year as State Deputy. I also need to include our Supreme Territorial Growth Director, Steve Cohen, PSD Maryland, for mentoring me as a State Deputy, and all his help to so many members of our team. Steve was always just a phone call away.

Special thanks to my Chief of Staff, Joe Mackos, who has provided a wealth of knowledge and experience in taking care of so many administrative tasks as well as constantly reminding me of what I need to take care of next. Our State Deputy's Staff and they include; Dave Schram and Jim Colegrove. Taking care of all of our Audio-Visual needs for our state meetings Sean Weirich & Matt Stapleton. Mike Thomas was a huge help sending out notices for the state and taking care of our public relations announcements. Thank you to Our State Legal Counsel Richard Myers who always has our State Council's best interest in mind. And finally, to Our "Special Warden" and hospitality chairman, John Mashiska, who knows exactly what everyone likes to drink and keeps most of it in stock. Especially a cooler full of Bud Light.

And, thank you, Grand Knights and leaders of our councils! You have been selected to lead your council in so many projects and activities that qualify your council for the Star Council Award. You may not think about it in that way, but it is true. Everything expected of the Grand Knight during a fraternal year is geared towards and leads to in this one prestigious award.

Now I would not have dedicated these past 20 years to the Ohio State Council if it weren't for the support of my family. I want to thank my daughters Jennifer and Beth Anne, and my son Patrick who have unselfishly supported all my Knight of Columbus activities. Patrick has been doing all my State Officer nominations over my years as a State Officer. Patrick, today will be your last time (no pressure). I must also thank my loving wife and Queen, Judy, for without her approval, support, and understanding none of this would have ever happened. You are always on my mind.

I thank God each and every day for the talent and ability he has given me, and for the time and energies necessary to complete my tasks to serve our Order in the capacity of State Deputy for this Great State of Ohio.

I thank God too, for all of you, the outstanding team and family of Brother Knights that surround me. May God Bless you in your efforts as you continue to do the work you do in Jesus' name.

Lord, please, "Let Us Be Worthy!"

Respectfully submitted,
State Deputy

Jeffrey T. Kiliany



REPORT OF THE STATE CHAPLAIN

The State Chaplain supervises all spiritual matters in connection with the State Council and assists brother Knights who attend our various events.

Let Us Be Worthy expresses our desire to take our faith into the market place. Participating in the life of our parishes, being involved in spiritual activities, and promoting good will and fellowship help make that happen.

Preparing to celebrate the upcoming holy year is an opportunity to witness our faith in Jesus and invite others to do likewise. Increasing our participation in the Mass and Sacraments and inviting others to join in can help the church to grow and flourish.

I am grateful for the opportunity to be part of our Worthy State Deputy's team and help our order to grow and proclaim the message of Jesus.

Fraternally,

Rev. James P. Lang
State Chaplain

REPORT OF THE STATE SECRETARY

Fraternal greetings and welcome Brother Knights to the historic 125th State Council Convention here in “The Greater Cincinnati Area” (Covington, KY). As the State Officer from the Cincinnati Archdiocese it is my honor and privilege to host and have you here as our guest.

It is hard to believe another year has gone by. When you become a state officer you are looking at a twelve year commitment which seems monumental. But as we well know time flies. I would like to take this opportunity to thank my brother Knights here in the Archdiocese and around the entire jurisdiction of Ohio for your help and patience especially during the first few months when officers start their new position with new responsibilities. Your support is greatly appreciated.

The office of State Secretary has been quite a learning experience. As State Secretary you are responsible for the bookkeeping of the day-to-day financial workings of the Ohio State Council. It is a continuous process of daily work and thanks in part to the success of the football (and basketball) sweeps fundraisers we have been able to give away more rebates than ever and continue to keep our state per capita the second lowest in the Order. It also means that the State Secretary who prints and mails all of the checks has been even busier thanks again to the great work of PSD Gary Eckstein’s and your fundraising efforts.

As the State Secretary I have maintained the four State Council bank accounts (General, Measure-Up, Fundraising, Convention). This includes issuing and writing checks as directed by the State Deputy and the reconciliation of each of these four accounts each month. During this past fiscal year over 1530 checks were written for State Convention Mileage and Per Diem, Measure-Up Grants, Super Cash Bonanza Rebates, Football Frenzy Prizes and Rebates, Basketball Final Four winners (expanded this year), and the general operating expenses of the Ohio State Council. At the end of the State Council fiscal year which runs from April 1 to March 31 a record of all deposits, checks, and reconciliations are submitted to the accounting firm of Blue & Company for audit, verification, and agreement with other state council financial records. These records and audit were made available to the Convention Audit Committee for their online inquiry and review via the Zoom meeting prior to the convention.

As State Secretary I continue to oversee the state council’s accounting operation utilizing the Intuit Quickbooks platform. This service allows each of the fiscal officers to also monitor and to take a greater role in the state council’s day to day finances. Having a web-based platform allows the State Deputy to have complete access to all four state council accounts and at any time he knows where the state council stands financially. This process has given the State Treasurer the ability to record all state council deposits and have a hands-on responsibility of the financial and accounting system two years earlier than as in past administrations. The system gives the State Secretary more efficient, detailed record keeping, and the ability to provide on demand reports for the state officers of particular programs and expenses. Quickbooks also provides the state council’s accounting firm of Blue & Company the ability to oversee the financial workings of the state council at any time, eliminating any chance of major error in our financial record keeping.

Continued...

REPORT OF THE STATE SECRETARY *continued*

Another responsibility of the State Secretary is to assess, levy, and collect Per Capita billings each year after the State Convention in May. Per Capita invoices, which are based on a council's total membership, are printed, and sent to the councils in the State of Ohio. Ohio's Per capita tax of \$6.50 per member is one of the lowest among the large jurisdictions within the entire order. The Per Capita billing is the primary source of revenue for the Ohio State Council. With the Per capita monies, the State Officers promote their programs as well as pay mileage and per diem to the state convention delegates. These monies are also used to pay mileage, per diem, and other state business related expenses to the State Officers as well as other State and Diocesan Personnel when approved by the State Deputy.

As State Secretary I am the chairman of both the Audit and Credentials Committees. The Audit Committee members are given the opportunity to review the state council's financial records for the past fiscal year.. This also includes the review of the State Council's financial audit for the past fiscal year. The Credential Committee will ensure that the convention is correctly represented with an accurate count of delegates and hierarchy within the state council.

Over this fraternal year the Archdiocese of Cincinnati has had it's share of challenges including storms, flooding, several tornado touchdowns, and the wholesale changes to our parishes which came under the Beacons of Light program. On every occasion the Knights of "The Arch" have stepped up and met those challenges. I would to thank PSD David Helmstetter for not only his guidance but also his work on council rejuvenation. David is one of many brother Knights who is the right man at the right time. "Team Arch" is also blessed with many leaders who have been a tremendous help to myself and our Order: Andrew Nuckols, Tim Mangan, Michael Freil, John Hoffman, Michael Thomas, and the newest addition to our team, Robert Richter (Cor). I also have some incredibly hard working District Deputies, chapter presidents, degree teams, and Grand Knights. Thank you brothers for all that *you do*. Finally I would like to offer a special thank you to Father Ron Williams and Father John Paul Walker for their support and spiritual guidance.

The Knights of Columbus is a family, and this is true of my fellow state officers. We are blessed in the Ohio Jurisdiction to get along so well and support each other. You cannot do all the tasks of a state officer alone. Thank you brothers. I would be remiss if I did not thank our Worthy Past State Deputies for their wisdom and guidance: Bob Byers, Larry Moegling, Dave Helmstetter, Gary Eckstein, Kevin Miller, Paul Upman, Robert Collins, Jr., Ken Girt, and Baci Carpico. The Past State Deputies are always there to answer questions for me and offer their advice.

Finally I would like to thank my son TJ but especially my wife Heather who has been at my side throughout the entire time and has put up with my late nights working on what she calls my "second full-time job". It may be a cliché but the Knights truly is a labor of love. "Let us be Worthy" by continuing to do the great things *we do* in honor of Blessed Michael McGivney.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael J. Felerski
State Secretary

REPORT OF THE STATE TREASURER

Greetings brother Knights and ladies to this historic 125th Annual Convention of the Ohio State Council Knights of Columbus here in the Greater Cincinnati area. It is hard to imagine what those attendees at the 1st Annual Convention would think about our Order and where Ohio is today. I would hope that they would be proud.

The primary responsibility of the State Treasurer is to record the deposits for the four major State Council accounts: General, Fundraising, Measure Up, and State Convention. This past fiscal year there were 279 deposits made and over 6000 checks deposited with Chase Bank into the State Council's accounts. I was also instrumental in setting up the Ohio State Council with a PayPal account so that we can now accept credit and debit card purchases for merchandise and convention. There is more to come from the use of PayPal, and it should provide greater flexibility to our councils. At the end of the State Council's fiscal year, the records of all deposits are submitted to the accounting firm of Blue & Co., LLC for the financial audit, verification, and agreement with other state council financial records. These records and audit are made available to the Convention Audit Committee for their inquiry and review and are published for the delegates to the convention as well.

As a member of the Ohio Charity Foundation the State Treasurer is required to attend the Foundation's semi-annual meetings. I also served on the Budgets & Investments, Oversight, and Scholarship Committee. All these committees provide a great learning experience for the Ohio Charity Foundation and the great work that we are doing throughout the state.

As of this report, we are twenty-five days away from the 2024 Super Cash Bonanza drawing to be held on Saturday, May 18th at the State Convention. It has been a fantastic adventure for Ca\$hman as he and Cardinal combat the forces of the Accountant and his henchman: Bills, Taxes, and Inflation. Our goal to foil the Accountant is to reach \$1,000,000 in sales and we are certainly on pace to do that. It will be my great pleasure to defeat the Accountant on behalf of Ohio as we surpass the \$1,000,000 mark for the first time in over 37 years. Thank you to my entire star-studded cast: State Deputy Jeff Kiliany, State Secretary Mike Felerski, State Advocate Chris Sarka, Gina Sarka, Matt Stapleton, M. Stewart Vetter, Matt Smith, Nick Gresko, Alicia Gresko, Katie Stapleton, PSD Ken Girt, and Kathy Maslach. Special thank you also to PSDs Gary Eckstein and Larry Moegling for going on tour with Ca\$hman to announce the plans to defeat the Accountant. There is more of an adventure to come for Season 2. What new foe will emerge to try and defeat Ca\$hman and take your councils' charitable funds? Stay tuned ... Same Ca\$h Time, Same Ca\$h Channel.

Continued...

REPORT OF THE STATE TREASURER *Continued*

I cannot say enough about all the support I received this past year throughout the state. Thank you to Mike Incorvati, Diocesan Growth Director. Mike spent more time with councils this past year helping them with Delta Church Drives and taking care of the eMembership tracking. It is with his special attention to detail that we are approaching 100% of our growth goal. Teran Taggart served his first year as Diocesan District Deputy Coordinator. Teran helped our District Deputies with timely communications, answers to procedural questions, and tracking of our DD Visitation Reports and Form 944 submissions where Cleveland has nearly 100% compliant. Robert Walsh served as the Rejuvenation Coordinator and instrumental in cleaning up the inactive council members while serving as a district deputy for our southern councils. And then there are my district deputies. These men helped, guided, and mentored the 70 councils in the diocese with growth, programming, Supreme requirements, and any other special requests, including working fish fries, fundraisers, and attended numerous council activities.

I would like to close by thanking my fellow state officers who are always there for me. None of this is possible without the love and support of my wife, Kathy who works every evening, at her desk alongside me, as she puts together personal hygiene kits for the homeless from all your donations and those she receives from the hotels where we stay. I love you.

Finally, and with a servant's heart, I want to thank you, my brother Knights throughout Ohio, for helping me and the entire state council team to make this a truly successful year under the leadership of State Deputy Jeff Kiliany – "Let Us Be Worthy".

Respectfully submitted,
James K. Maslach
State Treasurer

REPORT OF THE STATE ADVOCATE

Dear Bother Knights,

I extend my fraternal greetings to all in attendance during this very historic 125th State Convention of the Ohio State Council Knights of Columbus. We are truly blessed to be back together and to celebrate all that we achieved this past fraternal year.

As servants of our Lord, we have been chosen to serve His people. Brothers, you have once again answered that call! We continue to celebrate the worth and dignity of every human being in the State of Ohio with your continued support of the Measure Up program. This funding of agencies, programs, and schools throughout Ohio, which provide services to our citizens with developmental disabilities, continues to have the support they so greatly need. All thanks to your generosity and commitment.

In 2023, our “flagship” charity, raised \$273,966.25. Of this, roughly \$65,000 was donated to the Special Olympics in Ohio. Over 200 grants were awarded and over 150 organizations were supported. This was my last year as Measure Up chairman, and I appreciate all your continued efforts and to help Brother Tony achieve new heights with this worthy program.

My sincere gratitude for all the support councils, assemblies, and individuals made this fraternal year to grow our faith through Catholic education and continue Christ’s own mission. Your support with the Matching Funds program, along with the matching contributions from our Ohio Charity Foundation, Inc. of the Ohio State Council, will help us sustain the growth and presence of our faith for generations to come.

This year the total funds raised for diocesan distribution were \$61,856. These funds will have a direct impact on religious education and equipping pastors, parish staff, and leaders in the church with the necessary support and formation to help build a culture of evangelization. Matching Funds is an important program as the New Evangelization does not seek to invite people to experience only one moment of conversion but rather to experience the gradual and lifelong process of conversion. Therefore, our help is constantly demanded.

I want to express how much I appreciate the leadership of the districts, councils and assemblies in the Columbus Diocese. Growth is imperative for our tomorrow, and I am impressed on how we answered that call in the 2023-24 fraternal year. Columbus led the way and as I write this report, stands #1 out of all dioceses in Ohio with 114% of our intake goal for Ohio growth! Great work Brothers!

Continued...

REPORT OF THE STATE ADVOCATE *Continued*

Thank you to those who have answered the call to leadership and service to our brother knights and families in the Columbus Diocese. Dr. Eric Yang, our Diocesan Growth Coordinator, has provided unprecedented support for our councils to help obtain our growth results. I am honored to have the pleasure of working with Eric along with the friendship and support of both him and his wife Josephine. Many thanks go out to David Bogner, our Diocesan District Deputy Coordinator. David has offered the support and guidance to ensure our district deputies have the resources needed to help support our councils. Not only has David done an exceptional job in coaching and development, he has also successfully recruited many new leaders to step into the role of District Deputy where we had gaps in support. Thank you, David, for your constant efforts! I could continue on with so much information on other fine gentlemen and their families, yet I would unfortunately run out of pages available. Although, please note I could not be the support as your diocesan officer if it were not for the additional leadership and assistance from our Columbus Chapter President Marshall Myers, Ohio District 3 Master Chris Bush, our diocesan Past State Deputies Kevin Miller and Gary Eckstein, and my fellow State Officers.

Finally, as many of us know, I could not do what I do as a Knight of Columbus and your State Advocate, without the loving support of my best friend and beautiful wife Gina. The sacrifice, support and dedication that the women in our lives make for us as Knights is so powerful. They let us be the true Knights we are called to be. And yet, we do not have to tell them all this as I'm reminded of their understanding and dedication by what the late Ann Dechant, wife of Virgil Dechant, Past Supreme Knight, for she once said, "Being the wife of an active, engaged Knight takes patience, teamwork, sacrifice and an understanding heart. It isn't easy, but it is worthwhile because our mission is worthy."

So, I close in thanking you all so very much for your hard work, dedication and understanding our "why", our mission, for it is worthy. Let us be Worthy!

Respectfully submitted,
Christopher Sarka
State Advocate

REPORT OF THE STATE WARDEN

Fraternal greetings to all attending this 125th annual convention of the Ohio State Council Knights of Columbus.

As my first year as State Warden comes to an end, I want to take a moment to thank all of my Brother Knights throughout this great jurisdiction of OHIO for allowing me to serve as a state officer. I have enjoyed this assignment immensely, and I am looking forward to continuing to serve as your State Warden.

I have been fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with a talented group of dedicated men, my fellow State Officers. They have gone the extra mile to ensure that this rookie is comfortable in his position and with his duties as State Warden. This year has definitely been an educational experience. Now and as in the past, the State Warden writes and distributes the minutes for BOTH the State Officers' and Ohio Charity Foundation meetings. This part of the job takes a lot of time, but I am discovering and am truly amazed (and a bit surprised!) by the accomplishments of the Knights of Columbus here in this state.

The Silver Rose returns to Ohio on June 24 and passes through our jurisdiction until July 20. As chair, I truly appreciate all the local councils that are stepping up and scheduling services with this wonderful relic. Please check the state website and try to attend one of these services as we continue to defend life here in Ohio.

The 2024 Measure Up program (our flagship program) is underway, and the checks are starting to come in. Please schedule a council Measure Up activity in one of the following four ways: a special fundraising activity, a street collection, a local business collection, or an add-on collection to the Gimme Five. (If needed, please contact me for additional rulers.) Hopefully, ALL local councils will "Measure Up" in 2024 to help individuals with developmental disabilities.

It has been an honor to serve State Deputy Jeff Kiliany during the first year of his state general program: "Let Us Be Worthy!" Our state deputy has certainly supported me with kind words of encouragement. I also want to thank ALL who have stepped up to help me and to volunteer their services both in my diocese (Steubenville) and across the state.

Finally, I thank my wife Kristin for all her loving support and help behind the scenes as a brand new state officer. *I love you, Kristin!*

Respectfully submitted,
Anthony Offenberger
State Warden

REPORT OF THE IMMEDIATE PAST STATE DEPUTY

To all the Delegates, Attendees, and Guests of the 125th Ohio State Council Convention here in Cincinnati.

As Immediate Past State Deputy, I have served in an advisory role to our State Deputy Jeffery Kiliany and the state officer team. It has been an honor to serve with this team of officers. Congratulations to Jeffery, his officer corps, and his membership and programming team for a successful 2023-2023 fraternal year.

My prime responsibility this fraternal year has been tracking the financial contributions of the annual Support Our Seminarians (S.O.S.) program. I am pleased to report that this has been a very good fraternal year for vocations overall. Currently, over two hundred local councils, ten assemblies, and one chapter have contributed \$164,886.13 in support of the vocation's programs throughout the six dioceses of Ohio.

The financial summary (before expenses) for each diocese includes the following:

Cincinnati	\$18,979.34	89 Councils	
Cleveland	\$14,181.10	66 Councils	
Columbus	\$79,553.57	73 Councils	1 Chapter
Steubenville	\$ 2,851.00	22 Councils	1 Assembly
Toledo	\$25,765.39	70 Councils	3 Assembly
Youngstown	\$20,511.52	51 Councils	3 Assembly

Over the last several years, Columbus has exceeded \$50,000 in each campaign, which is the most in Support Our Seminarians history. What a tremendous improvement over the 2004 campaign when the Columbus diocese raised just a little **over \$79,000**. Congratulations are extended to the Diocese of Columbus brother knights for their contributions.

This year's campaign marks the tenth straight year in which the overall state total has exceeded \$100,000 and is the fifth highest campaign total in program history. This campaign raises our collections for vocations to just over \$1.8 million since 2002.

This year **32 councils and 1 chapter reached the \$1,000 plateau or better to earn recognition at this state convention. Again, special thanks to all.** *Please refer to the following chart continued on the next page...*

REPORT OF THE IMMEDIATE PAST STATE DEPUTY *continued*

2023-2024 S.O.S. Final Report								
Co						# of		
No.	Status	Location	DIO	Dis	Div	Mem	Total	
11208		Hilliard Canal	COLB	35	2	172	8694.6	
16561		Winchester	COLB	44	4	72	8171	
11188		Columbus	COLB	47	4	74	7441.5	
11275		Columbus	COLB	36	2	179	5118.68	
3777		North Canton	YOUN	72	2	138	5000	Gold
14502		Perrysburg	TOLE	61	1	197	3784	
910		Dannville	COLB	43	2	136	3659.17	
13705		Columbus	COLB	47	5	21	3454	
10765		Powell	COLB	36	2	149	3191	
OSC			STATE				3044.21	
Col Chapter			COLB				3000	
14671		Cardington	COLB	45	5	42	2840	
5582		Navarre	YOUN	73	3	112	2500	
4324		Johnstown	COLB	47	3	101	2347	
8829		Wauseon	TOLE	57	3	100	2200	
957		Findlay	TOLE	69	1	423	2100	
3724		Fairborn	CINN	5	1	213	2000	
671		Marion	COLB	45	1	316	2000	
11187		Pickerington	COLB	47	1	228	2000	Bronze
1782		Bellefontaine	CINN	4	4	77	1812	
1195		Cincinnati	CINN	14	1	222	1700	
546		Sandusky	TOLE	64	1	239	1691	
11915		Boardman	YOUN	81	2	133	1674	
14962		Columbus	COLB	42	4	74	1620.46	
341		Canton	YOUN	74	2	142	1525	
5253		Reynoldsburg	COLB	44	1	236	1500	
14457		Sunbury	COLB	42	2	178	1500	
15905		Holland	TOLE	59	3	110	1500	
12359		Cincinnati	CINN	14	2	150	1476	
1056		Delaware	COLB	45	2	167	1393.28	
4733		Canton	YOUN	74	2	136	1329	
947		Painesville	CLEV	23	2	132	1300	
10792		Strongsville	CLEV	24	2	161	1300	
4448		Mansfield	TOLE	67	4	72	1242	
5776		Westerville	COLB	46	1	276	1200	
5669		Kalida	TOLE	63	1	436	1200	
		New						
1718		Washington	TOLE	66	1	232	1160	
12772		Plain City	COLB	35	3	101	1151.62	

REPORT OF THE IMMEDIATE PAST STATE DEPUTY *Continued*

2023-2024 S.O.S. Final Report							
No.	Status	Location	DIO	Dis	Div	# of Mem	Total
2158		Minster	CINN	2	1	344	1101
14551		Akron	CLEV	30	1	228	1039
3727		Columbus	COLB	46	3	92	1037.27
11550		Cincinnati	CINN	17	2	158	1000
310		Mayfield Hghts	CLEV	33	1	257	1000
3269		Avon	CLEV	20	1	271	1000
10936		Hudson	CLEV	25	2	140	1000
1065		New Lexington	COLB	41	3	97	1000
5297		Circleville	COLB	39	3	120	1000
10863		Dublin	COLB	36	1	242	1000
10941		New Albany	COLB	46	1	257	1000
13081		Zoar	COLB	34	5	39	1000
2900A			TOLE				1000
554		Massillon	YOUN	73	1	431	1000 Silver

In closing, I would also like to thank everyone in the great jurisdiction of Ohio for their support during this past year as a state officer. I am always pleased to say that the Ohio Knights of Columbus and their families are the greatest people in the world. *My wife Beth and I thank you for all your kindness and support.*

Respectfully submitted,
 Mark A Siracusa
 Immediate Past State Deputy

REPORT OF THE STATE GROWTH DIRECTOR

Worthy State Chaplain, Worthy State Deputy, Worthy State Officers, Worthy District Deputies, Worthy State Directors, Worthy Grand Knights, Delegates, Brother Knights, Ladies, and guests of the 125th Annual Convention of the Ohio State Council of the Knights of Columbus:

Ohio is on target to make our goal of **1,860** new Brother Knights and **59** Star Councils. As of writing this report on May 1st, we are at 87.5% of our Circle of Honor Growth goal with 225 remaining new Brother Knights by June 30th.

I want to thank DD Danny Sprouse and Field Agent Robert Hernandez for starting **Seat of Wisdom Council #18322** in Oxford, Ohio. We are close to starting a college council at the University of Akron and re-establishing the college council at The Ohio State University. If you have any sons or grandsons at these universities, please have them contact the Newman center so they can become charter members when these new college councils are created. Hispanic Council Development Coordinator Robert Hernandez is working on a new Hispanic council at Our Lady of Rosary in Greenhills, Ohio. Necesito más hispanohablantes bilingües en cada una de nuestras diócesis de Ohio. Each diocese needs more men to help Robert when it comes to Hispanic Council development, if interested please contact me.

I want to thank Greg Singlar, our State E-member Coordinator, as of this report, Ohio is at 96% of our target goal with 1,012 new E-members. Ohio needs 38 more E-members by June 30th. 58% of these E-members have converted to local Councils. I ask all Grand Knights and Financial Securities to look at their prospect tabs in Member Management, I am sure this percentage could be higher. E-members has been the quickest way to join the Knights of Columbus, either by scanning the above QR code or having www.kofc.org/JoinUs bookmarked on your cell phone to quickly get the man joined after Mass.



Thank you to my Growth Team, my Diocese Growth Coordinators: Vic Lauterbach, Mark Kosobud, Michael Incorvati, Eric Yang, Erol Hosdil, Willi Meyer, and Dom Capezzuto. Then special thanks to newly formed Diocese Rejuvenation Team: Chairman Ken Girt, PSD, Dave Helmstetter, PSD, Rob Walsh, Kevin Miller, PSD, Bob Byers, PSD, and Matt Smith along with Michael Freil State Retention Coordinator assisting with council retention and affiliate program.

Continued...

REPORT OF THE STATE GROWTH DIRECTOR *Continued*

I also thank the Wives and Families of these men, to allow them to dedicate so much time to growing the Order and Ohio State Council. Thanks also go to Tom Buehner State Webmaster, Ken Girt for Star Council Report, Jim Maslach for Weekly Scorecard, Dave Roberts State Insurance Liaison and Mike Thomas State Public Relations for keeping all the reporting and communication flowing through out the fraternal year.

As of state convention, we have 45 days left in the Fraternal Year, still time for Councils to reach Star Council Award. Currently we have **59** councils that have earned the Father McGivney Award for Membership Growth. We have 46 councils that have earned Founders Award (two Fraternal Benefit Events and enough participation). Please make sure to submit Columbian Award (form SP-7) by June 1st and keep current with Youth Protection.

Help us Point the world to Jesus Christ!

"If we get the man right, we get everything right - the marriage, the family, the parish, the community We need men who will say 'Yes' to their God-given vocation."-- Patrick Kelly, Supreme Knight

Please see video at Ohio State website "*Point the World to Jesus Christ*" at www.kofcoho.org Catholic families are on a battlefield standing firm amid a culture pushing up against them. Knights of Columbus is here to help. We are proudly conducting Blessed Michael McGivney's mission. Grand Knights and Financial Secretary can order more materials from Supplies Online, these materials found under membership growth icon that given out during the convention. Please see pdf toolkit at state membership page <https://kofcoho.org/membership/> and also collection of Catholic Prayers.

As requested during the Supreme Knight video, I ask all Councils to do extra membership drive before the end of the fraternal year and have a Charity, Unity and Fraternal Exemplification scheduled during the month of June. **Let us be Worthy** to Grow the Ohio and the Order and make Circle of Honor!

Respectfully Submitted,
Andrew J. Nuckols
State Growth Director

REPORT OF THE STATE DISTRICT DEPUTY DIRECTOR

I would like to report the District Deputies of Ohio had a **FANTASTIC** year mentoring their councils and bringing men to the Order. Ohio's goal was 1,860 New Members and 59 Star Councils. Both goals are within our reach, and I pray that we will meet them by the end of the Fraternal Year.

Under the direction of the State Deputy and the Ohio State Council, we kicked off the year with over 20 new District Deputies, a few recycled from the past, but mostly all were new to their position. We have encouraged them, utilizing the resources available on both the Supreme and Ohio State Council websites. The resources needed to perform the duties of the DD helped all to be a better Mentor and leader of his District, encouraging the local councils to achieve their goals.

It is a **TEAM** effort, and it was evidenced at the DD meeting in June, when I was hospitalized and unable to attend the meeting. The **Team** stepped up to perform the duties and responsibilities I was scheduled to do, and I would like to say a big **Thanks** for their wonderful job in kicking off the Fraternal Year in a positive manner. I especially would like to give a big **Thank You**, to Phil Salasek, for conveying my vision of what I expected of the District Deputies at the meeting for the coming two years of State Deputy Jeff Kiliany's term in office.

I am encouraged by the increase in councils using Member Management, a valuable tool for the Grand Knight and Financial Secretaries. At both the June and January DD meetings, we conducted sessions regarding the use of Member Management, explaining its ease of operation and encouraging councils to make it their accounting and reporting system. The more we can help a council streamline their operations, I believe they will be more successful in their charitable and fraternal activities.

In the first half of the Fraternal Year, District Deputies were eligible for incentives from Supreme and the Ohio State Council, to encourage Growth, council form submission, and Program reporting. Ohio had 8 DDs receive the ***On The First Day Award***, which entitled them to a \$25.00 gift card. At the Mid-Year DD Meeting, Dr. Eric Yang was honored as the recipient of a \$50.00 gift card for the ***Let There Be Light Award***.

Supreme and the State Deputy offered more incentives to the DDs to encourage growth and several men received rewards for Growth in their Districts. The State Deputy offered an incentive to the DDs during the online DD meeting in November to encourage every council in a District to bring in a new member before Christmas. The DD would receive \$50.00 if every council brought in a new member and 3 men qualified.

Ohio also had several District Deputies win incentive prizes for Growth from Supreme. Seven DDs earned the 2ND Quarter Incentive of 70% intake before December 31 and received a K of C dress shirt and tie along with a keepsake medallion. Ohio then had 8 DDs earn the 3rd Quarter Incentive of 100% Growth by March 31 in the District and received a custom-made jacket.

Continued...

REPORT OF THE STATE DISTRICT DEPUTY DIRECTOR *Continued*

During the Mid-Year DD meeting, the following District Deputies were honored as the **DD for The First Half of The Year**. They were honored for their outstanding efforts in leading their Districts in Growth and a Mentor to their councils helping them achieve their goals. The role of the District Deputy is to assist the councils achieve their growth goals and to be a successful organization for the Church, Community, and the members of the Knights of Columbus. These men showed the leadership qualities needed to Mentor the councils, while allowing the local leadership to function as it pertains to their own individual communities. Congratulations to them and they will be eligible for the **DD Of the Year** honors.

DD 5 Jeremy Begines – Archdiocese of Cincinnati

DD 19 Thomas Goodhart – Cleveland Diocese

DD 42 Douglas Costello – Columbus Diocese

DD 52 Jeffrey Turner – Steubenville Diocese

DD 59 Sean Werich – Toledo Diocese

DD-81 – Ronald Santangelo – Youngstown Diocese

I would also like to thank the District Deputy Coordinators, a vital part of the State and Diocesan leadership team. These men are the gateway to each Diocese, working with the District Deputies under their direction, promoting the Order and helping to answer questions and concerns.

John Hoffman – Archdiocese of Cincinnati

Teran Taggart – Cleveland Diocese

David Bogner – Columbus Diocese

Thomas Offenberger – Steubenville Diocese

Tim Bohls, Jr. - Toledo Diocese

Matthew Meyer – Youngstown Diocese

In closing, I would encourage all men to consider becoming a District Deputy, to me, the most critical position in the Knights of Columbus. You are the “boots on the ground” for Supreme and the Ohio State Council. You work with the leadership of local councils to help them succeed, providing a necessary link from the Supreme Knight to the Ohio State Council, all the way down to the Candidate sitting in the front seat during his Exempt.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Dodson
District Deputy Director

REPORT OF THE STATE PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Worthy State Chaplain, Worthy State Deputy, Worthy State Officers, Worthy State Directors, Worthy District Deputies, Worthy Grand Knights, Delegates, Brother Knights, and guests of the 125th Annual Convention of the Ohio State Council Knights of Columbus,

First and foremost, I need to say Thank You to Our Worthy State Deputy Jeff Kiliany for trusting me to be his State General Program Director. Having been NCD/ Retention Director and Family Director under different State Deputies, one would think that being Program Director would be an easy transition. It has been a welcome challenge but a rewarding adventure.

The Program follows Faith in Action which we have used the last few years. This being the case you tweak it to make it better and hopefully easier for all Councils to use. Once again, this year we went back to reporting only on the State Website. Our hope was that more Councils would report their programs, grading would be faster, and Councils would be happier that they did not have to wait months to find out where they stood on program points and Directors comments. The Directors all comment on the increase: Our Community Director reported that there were 1440 community activities reported. Our Life Director reported that 30 percent of reports were for Pro Life. This shows how much we as an Order care for life. Our Family Director reported that Food for Families and Keep Christ in Christmas were the one and two most reported programs. Our Faith Director reported that your Councils made his job difficult because of all the great programs you reported. He also stated that when it came to picking the Chaplain / Religious of the year he did a lot of praying because of all the great reports for his "Of the Year" picks.

Thank You to my Directors for the great job you did this year. Thanks for all that you do for Our Order and for your own councils. A great big Thank You to your families for supporting you and giving you the opportunity to be Directors.

Finally, I say Thank You to all the Councils that reported and recruited during this Fraternal Year. Working with you and for you has been a tremendously rewarding adventure. I am looking forward to the New Fraternal Year where there will be more reporting and more great programs.

May God bless you in all you do! Let Us Be Worthy! Vivat Jesus!

Respectfully Submitted
Michael Jordon
State General Program Director

REPORT OF THE STATE FAMILY DIRECTOR

Worthy State Chaplain, Worthy State Deputy, Worthy State Officers, Worthy State Directors, Worthy District Deputies, Worthy Grand Knights, Delegates, Brother Knights, and guests of the 125th Annual Convention of the Ohio State Council Knights of Columbus,

First, I would like to begin by saying what an honor and pleasure it has been serving as your Ohio State Family Director this past fraternal year! This really is a family service organization! Second, I am convinced that councils can grow and become successful by doing family service programs! Your reports proved just that! Most of the family council activities reported to me involved prayer, food, and family social time! Some of the popular ones were Family Prayer Night, Family Fully Alive and of course Family of the Month.

However, the number one family activity reported to me was Food for Families. This past fraternal year, 97 councils reported participation in the Food for Families program. Whether it was a food bank, food pantry or soup kitchen, these council did their part to help fight hunger. A big thank you to every council for participating in the Food for Families program!

The number two family activity reported to me was Keep Christmas in Christmas. This past fraternal year, 87 councils reported participation in the Keep Christmas in Christmas program. It was such a joy to see so many councils doing so many activities to help do their part to promote the true spirit of Christmas in our homes, schools, parishes, and communities. Especially the number one Keep Christ in Christmas activity, the poster contest. The kids all did a great job in this fraternal year's Keep Christmas in Christmas Poster Contest! We even had an international winner this fraternal year's poster contest, Dylan Vowles sponsored by Council 10043. I would like to thank every council for participating in the Keep Christmas in Christmas program!

This fraternal year, there were 158 councils that submitted at least one Family Program Activity to me. Also, there were 714 total family activities reported to me! I would like to thank those 158 councils for reporting to me on their activities. Great job!

This year, there were 92 councils that submitted to me a Family of the Year. The nominations for Family of the Year have been great! Picking an overall winner was tough! So, Thank You to all 92 councils that submitted to me a Family of the Year nomination!

I would like to say thank you to our State Deputy Jeff Kiliany. I would like to thank Jeff for allowing me the honor to serve my brother knights, the State Council, and our Order as the Ohio State Family Director this fraternal year. I also want to say thank you to my brother knights on the state team for their friendship, guidance, and support. This has been a tremendous and memorable experience for me!

Vivat Jesus!

Respectfully Submitted,
Tim Mangan
State Family Director

REPORT OF THE STATE FAITH DIRECTOR

Worthy State Deputy, Knights, State Officers, Delegates and Guests,

I welcome you all to the 125th Ohio State Knights of Columbus Convention. Wishing you all a great time here while you enjoy the convention and greater Cincinnati events.

As State Faith Director this year I first had the opportunity to meet many of you on the State Tour in July to explain this year's Faith program and get to know you. Since then, your councils have been keeping me busy with all your submitted reports. I do apologize for the couple of missteps I have made and hope everything was made right. I asked and you delivered. Thank you! Over 1323 reports submitted this year in Faith, your councils proved your commitment to our church, our priests, and your parish communities. Congratulations to you all, and thank you for all you do!

Every year the directors are asked to pick from these reports the "best of" for each Diocese and the overall best for the State. This is a difficult task as there are so many deserving activities performed by each of you. Your efforts are remarkable. But I want to congratulate those who were chosen and encourage all councils to plan an event for the next fraternal year that will make this task even more difficult for me.

In addition to the best activity, I must select a Chaplain/Religious of the year for each diocese and one for the State. Believe me this was even more difficult as I read each of your submissions telling me how your candidate is deserving, and they all are. After much thought and prayer, the men chosen this year have earned the moniker of "above and beyond". My congratulations to them all. Your faith and dedication are what we strive for as Knights. Your example is our guiding light. On behalf to the State Deputy and team, I thank you!

I wish to take this opportunity to thank State Deputy Jeff Kiliany for first selecting me as his Faith Director, and for all his help and guidance throughout the year. Along with all the State Officers and team, this has been a very gratifying year and I look for to next year being even better.

In closing I have one more thank you to extend. Meeting and serving our State Chaplain, Father Jim Lang, has been a pleasure and a treat. Please try this week to introduce yourself to Father. He is an amazing, yet humble man. Our time together has been treasured. I look forward to working together in the coming year.

Again, I hope this weekend is both fun and fulfilling. May God Bless you all and lead you on a safe trip back to your homes.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark E. Kahanca
State Faith Director

REPORT OF THE STATE LIFE DIRECTOR

I fully admit I was a bit intimidated by the prospect of being the State Life Director. It was a daunting proposition to stay on top of the legal proceedings both in Ohio and on the federal level but we were coming off the elation of the Dobbs decision and I figured the abortion crowd would be reeling. Boy was I wrong. The baby killers came to Ohio with a constitutional amendment right away. It was great to see the pro-life support around the state, the activism around supporting pro-life, and the turn out for the Ohio March for Life as well as all the local marches, masses, and rosaries. The activity around the amendment accounted for about 3% of this year's activity reports and March for Life activities were 14% of life activities reported. These don't include the many novenas and rosaries conducted in honor of life. Pro-life support in Ohio is inspiring.

Ohio has been a huge participant in the Supreme Ultrasound Funding program. Ohio is in the top echelons in the order for number of ultrasounds placed. This fraternal year 14 councils reported donations toward an ultrasound. Congratulations goes out to the following councils for receiving their full match and are in the process of purchasing and placing new ultrasounds; St Denis #1756 in Versailles, St Ladislav #16373 in Westlake, and Gilmour #310 in Mayfield Heights.

Ohio Knights of Columbus know how to support pro-life pregnancy life centers. These reports accounted for over 30% of all life activities reported. From diaper drives to bottle drives, from clothing collections to book collections, not to mention all the service hours washing clothes and toys and folding clothes and blankets and maintaining properties, our brothers in Ohio served families in need that utilize area pregnancy centers.

It is my honor to get to choose the State Knight of the Year. Almost one quarter of all Ohio's councils nominated a brother knight for Ohio Knight of the Year. It was truly challenging choosing between so many worthy candidates. Great job to those brother Knights for being outstanding and great job to their brother knights for acknowledging those outstanding men with great write ups.

I have to thank the councils that supported our special needs population across Ohio. Nearly 10% of life activities reported were special needs related. These included Special Olympics, Measure Up, Free Throws, delivering meals, and helping throw a dance.

I would like to thank State Deputy Jeff Kiliany and General Program Director Michael Jordon for asking me to be part of this administration. I enjoyed membership but I LOVE programming and it's great to get back to hearing about all the great events around the state. I'd like to thank the other directors for the entertaining texts and emails and meetings. You guys are special. I would be remiss if I didn't thank my beautiful wife Melissa. Without your support and love, I wouldn't be able to do the things I do with the Knights. Thank you for letting me play out of my league.

Respectfully submitted,
M. Stewart Vetter, Jr.
State Life Director

REPORT OF THE STATE COMMUNITY DIRECTOR

Worthy State Chaplain, Worthy State Deputy, Worthy State Officers, Worthy State Directors, Brother Knights and Guests of the 125th Annual Convention of the Ohio State Council Knights of Columbus:

It has been my true honor and pleasure to serve this past fraternal year as your Ohio State Community Director. It has been a joy to see all the great works that our Councils have done this past year to get out into their communities and make a difference to those in need. This past fraternal year, we had 171 councils report at least one community related activity. In total, we had 1,440 community activities reported, **a 71% increase over last year!!!** We know that there are more councils helping their communities and those less fortunate, so please remember to report these activities so we can see what you do to benefit the underserved in our local, state and world communities. Thank you for your reports and keep up the great work!

Of particular note, more than 82 councils reported participation in the Coats for Kids program, a flagship program of the Knights of Columbus to help keep our most vulnerable warm and protected during the cold winter months. The efforts of these councils resulted in thousands of coats being donated to those in need. I commend all councils that participate in the Coats for Kids program.

I am also pleased to report that more than half of Ohio's councils reported new forms of community engagement through the Helping Hands Program. The Helping Hands Programs lets councils put their Faith in Action however needed in their community. I encourage all councils to think outside the box to be the "go-to" organization for assistance in your communities.

A great number of councils reported participation in the Free Throw Contest this year, and the State Free Throw Championship in Columbus was a great event! I hope to see more council participation in this activity, as well as some of our other youth-minded activities such as the Soccer Challenge and the Catholic Citizenship Essay in the year to come. And I also encourage all councils to be sure that they have satisfied their Office of Youth Protection Requirements in the year to come. Many youth activities fall under the Community Program, and it is our duty to be sure that we are doing everything we need to do to protect our youth when participating in Knights of Columbus activities!!

Thank you to our Worthy State Deputy for his confidence in me and allowing me to serve as your Community Director this past year. Thank you also to our General Program Director, my fellow Directors, and all our State Officers for their support, guidance, and fraternity this past year. Finally, and most importantly, thank you to my wonderful wife, April, and our beautiful daughters, Audrey, Penny, Evie, Ryann, and Alyvia, who have sacrificed time with their husband and daddy to allow me to serve in this position. I love you all dearly.

May God bless you in all you do! Let Us Be Worthy! Vivat Jesus!

Respectfully submitted,
SK Joseph S. Hartle
State Community Director

REPORT OF THE STATE E-MEBERSHIP COORDINATOR

Worthy State Chaplain, Worthy State Deputy, Worthy State Officers, Worthy District Deputies, Worthy State Directors, Worthy Grand Knights, Delegates, Brothers Knights, and Guests of the 125th Annual Convention of the Ohio State Council of the Knights of Columbus.

Thank you to the 260+ councils in Ohio that recruited at least one new member using E-Membership this fraternal year! This is great news and will only continue to grow. The Knights of Columbus are investing heavily in E-Membership, which is the present and the future of membership recruitment. Please do not hesitate to contact me or your Diocesan Growth Director if you need any assistance.

Additionally, I encourage parish councils to use one of my monthly bulletin blurbs in their bulletins. They are one of the best recruiting tools your council can use to recruit new E-Members. My monthly blurbs can be found in the Ohio Beacon Newsletter or on our state website at kofcoho.org/membership. Your council can use any from any month, just pick the one that you feel fits best.

As a final note, I would like to thank all the Growth Directors in the state of Ohio. It's been a pleasure working with them this year and they do a great job promoting membership growth for your local diocese. I want to extend my gratitude and appreciation to Andy Nuchols, Vic Lauterbach, and Mark Kosobud from Cincinnati, Mike Incorvati from Cleveland, Eric Yang from Columbus, Erol Hosdil from Steubenville, Willi Meyer from Toledo, and Dom Capezzuto from Youngstown. Thanks to all of you!

One last and most important thank you goes to my wife Erin. The work I'm allowed to do with the KofC would not be possible without your motivation and support. I love you and thank you so much!

Respectfully submitted,
Greg Singlar
State E-Membership Coordinator

REPORT OF THE STATE PUBLICITY COORDINATOR

The role of the State Publicity Coordinator is primarily to ensure effective dissemination of news within the Ohio State membership regarding:

- Status of Programs
- News of Upcoming Events
- Communication and sharing of information regarding events occurring in the Order to foster greater participation by members
- Distribution of prayer requests for intervention for the health and well-being of members
- Notification of the deaths of Ohio members of the Order
- Other information needing to be shared by the State Deputy and other officers

Additionally, the State Publicity Coordinator works with Council Publicity Directors and others to help build relationships with local and state media to ensure that the events and good works of the Knights of Columbus is shared with the community.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Thomas
State Publicity Coordinator

REPORT OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF

My Ohio Brother Knights, in this the 125th anniversary of the Ohio State Council and the first year of State Deputy Jeff Kiliany's term "LET US BE WORTHY" state theme. Welcome

As this is the first year as your Chief of Staff for the Ohio State Council I first would like to thank our State Deputy Jeff Kiliany and Queen Judy for giving me the opportunity to serve the State Council in this position, I never thought I would have a position like this. Thank you.

We started off by selecting a place for the organizational meeting in June, the weekend of the 16th, 17th & 18th. at the Geneva-on-the-Lake State Lodge. The Friday evening dinner for the "Let Us Be Worthy" state team was at the Old Mill Winery in Geneva. Then on Saturday after opening the meeting with everyone, I then had to make sure the ladies got off for their day trip. Topping off the day with a dinner Saturday evening in the Lodge.

I have tried to make the District Deputy weekend and the State Convention weekend a little easier by having per diem and milage on the master spread sheet where the member just needs to sign his name. This way each team member doesn't have to fill out separate forms.

The "Let Us Be Worthy" state apparel is for sale this weekend as it was during all of our meetings, polo shirts, dress shirts, ball caps, and briefcases. Some have the State Deputies logo, others with the Knights of Columbus emblem and the wording "Ohio State Council". Having a card reader so members can use their credit card, for some just don't carry cash, has helped sales tremendously the first year so far.

Finally, and most of all, I want to thank my wife "DEE" for all her love, support and understanding. Also I want to thank our Worthy State Deputy Jeff Kiliany and Queen Judy, and all the Ohio brother knights for giving me the opportunity to serve you in this position.

Respectfully submitted,
Joe Mackos
Chief of Staff

REPORT OF THE STATE SPECIAL REPORTS CHAIRMAN

I would like to extend my fraternal greetings and best wishes to all the delegates attending this momentous occasion of our 125th Annual Ohio State Council Convention being held May 17-19, 2024 in Covington, KY.

It has been an honor to serve our State Deputy Jeff Kiliany this past year as the Special Reports Chairman, continuing several of the special reports that I developed over the years as a state officer. Those reports include:

Monthly Star Council Status Report. This report is updated and distributed every first of the month using data from several of the Supreme Council reports from their website. This report is used by the state officers and district deputies as a current “snapshot” of their council’s activities, submitted reports, membership growth, and state fundraising participation. In addition, I have been distributing the names of attendees for the fraternal benefit webinars that have not been reported by grand knights on FBE Form 11077. The state deputy’s goal for Ohio councils achieving Star Council Award is 59. We have many grand knights and councils working hard to achieve this award.

Council Master List. This list of all active and inactive councils is used for various program and fundraising activities for establishing quotas. It is also used as a reference guide for all our councils as it lists their Supreme Council official name and location, district number, district deputy, diocese location, and membership total as of May 1 of previous fraternal year.

State Per Capita Invoices. I assisted our State Secretary, Mike Felerski, this past year in establishing the State Council Per Capita invoices, mileage calculations for convention and district deputy meetings, and convention per diem and mileage rebate calculations.

S.O.S. Report. I also assisted Immediate Past State Deputy Mark Siracusa in recording all S.O.S. donations.

I would like to thank our state officers, district deputies, general agents and field agents and state and diocesan directors for their continued support of the Star Council Award report. And thanks to you, the Grand Knights and leaders of our councils! You have been elected to lead your council in its quest for the Star Council Award. Everything expected of a Grand Knight during a fraternal year is included in this one award. As mentioned, Supreme Council has challenged our state deputy to achieve 59 Star Council awards for the 2023-2024 fraternal year which ends on June 30, 2023. And with your assistance, we can do it!

In conclusion, let us all continue to grow our councils and to grow the Order here in Ohio. We need to bring in other Catholic men to help us with all our work. “Let us be Worthy”!

Vivat Jesus!

Respectfully Submitted,
Ken Girt, PSD
State Special Reports Chairman

REPORT OF THE STATE REJUVENATION CHAIRMAN

The recent COVID-19 pandemic has been a burden to many of the Knights of Columbus councils in Ohio. Many councils have not resumed their pre-pandemic activities. Additional reasons that may affect the life of a council are: closing or merging of parishes in our dioceses, lack of young people attending Mass and practicing their Catholic faith, lack of young Catholic men offering to give their time and be involved in the Order's work, and the lack of training and leadership in our councils. The "Let us be Worthy" Council Rejuvenation Program was created to specifically address these issues and provide assistance in sustaining active members.

Ohio has assigned six Diocesan Rejuvenation Chairmen to help struggling councils with efforts to rejuvenate, or merge with another local council. I would like to thank the following diocesan chairmen: Dave Helmstetter PSD -Cincinnati Diocese, Bob Walsh-Cleveland Diocese, Kevin Miller PSD-Columbus Diocese, Bob Byers PSD-Steubenville Diocese, and Matt Smith-Toledo Diocese. And I helped coordinate activities in the Youngstown Diocese.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ken Girt, PSD
State Rejuvenation Chairman

REPORT OF THE STATE ROUND TABLE CHAIRMAN

One way to recruit new members from our parishes is to demonstrate the Knights of Columbus commitment to service to their parish. Supreme Council explains the purpose of a parish round table as:

A parish round table serves a parish in any number of ways. However, the ultimate aspiration of any parish round table remains the same: To actively engage Knights of Columbus members in order to aid the parish and sustain visible Catholic action through works of charity in every parish and mission throughout the Order, and in sustainable parishes to form the round table into a fully functioning council. Parish round tables are ideal to provide a Knights of Columbus presence and be of service to smaller parishes and missions, and to fill needs for ethnic development.

We continue to promote parish round tables here in Ohio and to submit Form #2629. Councils are encouraged to contact their pastor on how their council can best serve him and the parish, whether it be physical work like landscaping or construction, or involvement in Faith-enrichment activities. It's the visible presences of the knights putting their "Faith in Action".

Respectfully Submitted,
Ken Girt, PSD
State Round Table Chairman