



# Buckeye Bulletin

Volume 1 - Issue 1

July - 2025

State Chaplain - Fr. John Paul Walker, OP

State Deputy - Mike Felerski

State Advocate - Tony Offenberger

State Secretary - Jim Maslach

State Warden - M. Stewart Vetter

State Treasurer - Chris Sarka

Immediate Past State Deputy - Jeff Kiliany

## From Our State Deputy

Greetings Brother Knights and welcome to a new fraternal year!

With it a comes a new theme: *We are Called*. At the start of the fraternal year, each State Deputy is asked to fill out a MOST plan of action: Mission statement, Objectives, Strategy, and Tactics. Long before I learned about the MOST, I knew what my theme would be, and when the time came, I was grateful it converged with the MOST plan.

The *Mission* of the Ohio State Council is to grow the Order by encouraging and inviting Catholic men throughout Ohio to join the Knights and engage in the corporal and spiritual works of mercy we do to improve our communities and ourselves as guided by our Founder Blessed Michael McGivney. We are called to this.

Our *Objectives* are to promote the continued growth in our Order by striving for the Circle of Honor each fraternal year. This includes working hard to reach our Circle of Honor goals, promote increased participation in Faith in Action programs, and do so with closer partnerships with our agencies and field force promoting our Order's benefits. We are called to this.

A key *Strategy* is communications. We should always communicate to our communities the good works we are accomplishing through the promotion of our programs and good works. "*Public relations is so important to everything we do as Knights of Columbus.*" This was the message of former Buckeye Bulletin editor Harding Christ and is echoed by our public relations coordinator Michael Thomas. Good communications is not only important to the outside world, but also within our councils, assemblies, and chapters. This promotes unity. We are called to this.

Finally, our *Tactics* can and will include, but is not limited to, video streaming, podcasts, social media, radio, diocesan publications, our parish bulletins, and our council newsletters or email blasts. Our presence at Catholic Men's Conferences has also been successful. The directors and chairmen of the four areas - faith, family, community, and life - will be promoting each of their respective areas and share with all examples of successful programs from across the state.

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Michael J. Felerski  
State Deputy

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We will encourage increased promotion of Cor participation for councils, under the direction of the State Chaplain, who has defined his goals for the initiative with our State Cor director.

*We are Called* to invite men into our Order. *We are Called* to help the needy and outcast in our communities. *We are Called* to be the charity that evangelizes through our good works and Cor initiative. Brother Knights we are not just called *The Strong Right Arm of the Church*; we are called to **BE** the Strong Right Arm of the Church through our leadership and our good works.



Vivat Jesus.

**Michael J. Felerski - State Deputy**



## Make Cor a Part of Your Council's Core

Brother Knights,

After a successful District Deputy meeting this past weekend, I look forward to starting the new fraternal year. As you will see on the State Tour, there is a huge effort being made at all levels of the Order to promote the faith formation initiative known as Cor.

Please make every effort to attend the tour in your diocese. Your Diocesan Coordinators will be on hand to introduce themselves. I trust you will take full advantage of their desire to help your councils be successful.

As a reminder, please make note of the following links:

[Cor Homepage](#) where you will find everything you need to get started with Cor  
[Council EFF Director appointment form](#) scroll down to the 4<sup>th</sup> one on the list, EFF-C. This is an **online only** form. Follow the instructions and click Submit.  
[Quarterly Report](#) which is used to notify the Cor Team of council participation.

Remember Brothers, Cor is a vehicle to drive increased faith formation in the men of our councils, parishes, and communities. It is not mandatory, but I think you will find a need for it. I am asking councils that are having success to send me a email detailing your success story. I'd like to include these in future newsletters.

The State Cor team consists of the following Brother Knights:

- State Chaplain, Fr. John Paul Walker
- Cor Clergy Liaison, Fr. Adam Hertzfeld
- Toledo Diocesan Coordinator, Mike Ginnetti
- Cleveland Diocesan Coordinator, Ty Tyjewski
- Youngstown Diocesan Coordinator, Peter Rich
- Steubenville Diocesan Coordinator, Roger Gibson
- Columbus Diocesan Coordinator, Marshall Myers
- Archdiocese of Cincinnati Coordinator, Robert Richer



We are Called to help you, please reach out!

In Christ,

**Arron Mier - State Director of Evangelization and Faith Formation**

[kofcohioeff@gmail.com](mailto:kofcohioeff@gmail.com)

# From Our State Chaplain

My brother Knights,

It is a great honor to have been invited to serve as the State Chaplain for the next two fraternal years. Since I am new to this position, and relatively new to Ohio, I wanted to take this opportunity to help everyone to get to know me a little better.

I grew up in the western Chicago suburbs. I have one sibling, who is married and has two school-aged children. I attended public schools my whole life, and when it came time for college, I went to the University of Illinois, graduating with a degree in Chemistry. I then went off to graduate school at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, where I earned a master's degree in Environmental Engineering & Chemistry. It was then that I felt the Lord tugging on my heart and calling me to the priesthood.

I entered the Order of Preachers (more commonly called the Dominicans, since we were founded by St. Dominic around the year 1200 A.D.) in 1995, professed my solemn vows in the year 2000, and was ordained a priest in 2002.

During my 23 years of priesthood so far, I have had the blessing of being engaged in a wide variety of ministries. I have done college campus ministry at both Catholic and secular universities, taught theology at both the undergraduate and seminary levels, and served on the Vocations Council of my Dominican province. While living in Washington, DC, I served for several years as a contract chaplain with the U.S. Army, regularly celebrating Masses at Fort Meade, Maryland, and at the chapel in the Pentagon. I currently sit on the Board of Advisors of Pregnancy Center Plus here in Cincinnati, a very large and comprehensive Catholic pregnancy center. I am fully trained in doing post-abortion counseling through Project Rachel and have been involved in ministry to post-abortive women in every diocese where I have lived as a priest. More recently, I have been asked to help train other priests and seminarians in this area of priestly ministry.

But most relevant to my position as your State Chaplain is that I had the great honor of serving as Pastor of St. Mary's Church in New Haven, the birthplace of our order, for over six years. In fact, I was the pastor there when Blessed Michael McGivney was beatified by the Vatican. The weekend of the beatification we organized "McGivney Festival" at St. Mary's, keeping the church open 24/7 for three days to welcome the pilgrims coming to pray at his tomb—including among them the Archbishop of Lviv, Ukraine! During my years in New Haven I had the pleasure of collaborating closely with our Worthy Past Supreme Knight, Carl Anderson, as well as our current Worthy Supreme Knight, Patrick Kelly. Many of the Supreme Officers and Supreme Staff I counted among my parishioners, and got to know their spouses quite well, baptized many of their children, and so forth.

Being involved in the Knights of Columbus has transformed me and changed my life forever, both as a priest and as a Catholic man. I look forward to doing all that I can to help each of you find a life-changing transformation as a Knight as well. I am sure the Lord has big plans for all of us over the years ahead.

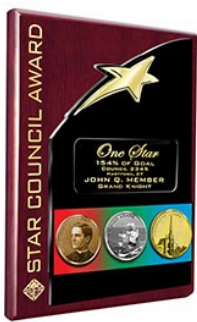
Vivat Jesus!

God bless, **Fr. John Paul - State Chaplain**



**Fr. John Paul Walker**  
State Chaplain





## Star Council Award Goal

We have been informed that Ohio has successfully completed all the requirements for Circle of Honor for the 2024-2025 fraternal year. Two years in a row! Congratulations to outgoing State Deputy Jeff Kiliany and all the councils who achieved the Star Council Award. As of this writing, we met our goal of 59 councils and may possibly have a few more.

Our new State Deputy, Mike Felerski, was informed that his Star Council Goal for the 2025-2026 Circle of Honor will be 60 councils. I know we can do it again, and I look forward working with our councils in the new fraternal year. See you on “Tour” in a few weeks.

Great job Ohio! Vivat Jesus!

**Ken Girt, PSD - State Star Council Director**

# Growth

## Council Growth - It Starts with a Plan

Welcome to the new Fraternal Year!

My name is Mark F. Kosobud, and I will be serving as the State Growth Director for the next two years in State Deputy Mike Felerski’s *We Are Called* Team.

Right off the bat, let’s look at our goals – 2,100 new Knights and 60 STAR councils. This is a very achievable goal, given how well we’ve done over the past several years. Doing so will continue to support councils across the state with new members and new leaders who can further the dream of Blessed Michael McGivney here in Ohio. As much fun as it is to win awards and achieve goals, we need to remember that our future is dependent on our inviting men to join us!

Our Growth plan to achieve our goals is forged around four key concepts:

1. Every council actively inviting! We need every council in the state to try and invite at least one new member into their council. Doing so not only helps all councils to grow but is also a great foundation for the entire state.
2. Growth 365 – we all need to remember that Growth is an all-the-time thing! No matter where, when, or what is going on, be prepared to offer the invitation of membership in our Order to someone you meet. Remember that inviting is a mindset, not a date!
3. We will be relying heavily on Supreme’s new *Fishers of Men* programs and materials, leveraging the excellent new family-focused content as well as the expanded range of invitation products.
4. And finally, our core effort will be focused on helping to mentor Knights at all levels of our councils to understand how we can be relevant to Catholic men across the state. We call this our Relevancy project, and we will be providing information and tips on how every Knight can learn to recognize when the moment is right to lead a man into the Order,

We have the means – e-Membership tools, eForm100’s, etc. We have the opportunities – Growth 365, Church Drives, Fishers of Men. It’s up to us to provide the motive for a man to join us – we have to show him how we are the preferred organization for him to join.

We also have some great incentives planned for the year to encourage and reward your efforts and our first offers follow my notes. I look forward to your successes and as always, am happy to help you through the rough spots.

Remember – inviting is a mindset, not a date!

Vivat Jesus!

**Mark Kosobud - State Growth Director**



**Knights of  
Columbus®**  
Ohio  
State Council

*We Are Called*  
**GROWTH TEAM OHIO**

**Q1 Incentives**



### **Supreme Q1 Incentive**

See the separate Supreme handout on the back.

### **Fast Start Challenge – July and August**

The Council **Membership Director** in each Diocese with the highest percentage Growth for the period July 1, 2025 to August 31, 2025 will receive either:

1. A Bass Pro Shops Johnny Morris CarbonLife Tech Baitcast reel
2. A Bass Pro Shops Johnny Morris Platinum Signature Spinning Reel

### **eMembership Fast Start Challenge – Q1**

The **Council** in each diocese who recruits AND TRANSFERS the most eMembers in the period July 1, 2025, to September 30, 2025 will receive a \$100 gift card.

### **District Deputy Growth Incentive – Q1**

The **District Deputy** in each Diocese who encourages *all* of his assigned councils to recruit at least one new member and transfer them during the period July 1, 2025 to September 30, 2025, will receive a \$75 Knights Gear gift card.

### **Shining Armor Award – 11 Month Challenge**

The first 100 completed Shining Armor Award cards turned into the State Growth Director, will have their pins paid for by the State Council and they will be entered into a drawing to win \$100. These pins will be purchased by the State and sent to the Grand Knight for presentation at the council. Anyone that sends in their completed Shining Armor Award cards after the first 100 will also be placed into a separate drawing to win \$100. Program runs “most” of the year, beginning July 1, 2025 and ending on the Saturday of the Ohio State Convention (May 16<sup>th</sup>), at which time the two drawings will be held.

Tied contests will be determined by placing all tied candidates into a hat and picking a winner.

**2,100 New Knights**  
**For Now and for Our Future**  
**60 Star Councils**

# Fishers of Men: Extend the Invitation

A Membership Growth Competition for Councils

July 1 - October 31, 2025

(Insurance Jurisdictions Only)

## By Total Gains (min. 100% of Quota)

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place (1 per territory) - \$2,000 + a film crew at event (see details below)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place (1 per territory) - \$1,000
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place (1 per territory) - \$750

## By Percentage of Quota (min. 100% of Quota)

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place (1 per territory) - \$2,000
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place (1 per territory) - \$1,000
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place (1 per territory) - \$750
- 4<sup>th</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> Place (22 per territory) - \$250

## Rules and Criteria

The United States and Canada are split into five territories as shown below. The **top three recruiting councils by total membership- gains** and the **top 25 recruiting councils by P- ercentage of quota** in each territory will receive money from the Supreme Council Home Office to use toward holding a council/parish event during the 2025-2026 fraternal year.

**Councils must meet a minimum of 100% of their 2025-2026 fraternal year membership quota between July 1 - October 31; 2025, to earn the award.** Refer to the breakdown of payouts above and the criteria for hosting your event below.

*A council can potentially earn the award in both categories, thereby receiving more money for their event.*

## Jurisdictions by Territorial Growth Director

- **Ken Latham** - Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Newfoundland/Labrador, Nova Scotia, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Prince Edward Island, Rhode Island
- **Steve Cohen** - Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia
- **Alain Cayer** - Illinois, Indiana, Maine, Michigan, New Brunswick, New Hampshire, Ontario, Quebec, Vermont, Wisconsin
- **Jim Caffrey** - Iowa, Kansas, Manitoba, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas
- **Bob Kish** - Alaska, Alberta, Arizona, British Columbia, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Saskatchewan, Utah, Washington, Wyoming

## Winners Criteria

Each council that receives money for their event from the Supreme Council Home Office is **required to use the money to host a council/parish event during the 2025-2026 fraternal year.** The event should ultimately help drive additional growth for your council and attract men in your parish and community. For example, you might host a family friendly event, a charitable event, or parish men's retreat. *Councils are encouraged to take pictures of their event, share them on Facebook and/or Instagram, and tag @kofc\_official so the Supreme Council can reshare your post with brother Knights around the world.*

**The five councils from each territory that earn first place for total membership gains will be required** to work with their state council and regional growth director on planning their council event. The Supreme Council Home Office will send a film crew to the event if it meets proper criteria (more details to follow). The video will be shared Orderwide and on social media, including YouTube, to highlight the council event and encourage other men to join the Order.

# State Tour Schedule - 2025

**Friday, July 11, 2025**

**Toledo Diocese**

Tiffin Council Hall

49 E. Perry St

Tiffin, OH 44883

Host Council: Tiffin Council #608

Dinner @ 6:30 PM

Meeting @ 7 PM

**Saturday, July 12, 2025**

**Cincinnati Archdiocese**

Bainbridge Hall

267 Bainbridge St.

Dayton, OH 45402

Host Council: Dayton 500

Lunch @ 12:15 PM

Meeting @ 1PM

**Sunday, July 13, 2025**

**Columbus Diocese**

Ministry Center Social Hall

6300 E. Dublin-Granville Rd

New Albany Oh 43054

Host Council: New Albany #10941

Lunch @ 12:30 PM

Meeting @ 1:00 PM

**Friday, July 18, 2025**

**Steubenville Diocese**

St Benedict Catholic Church

701 Gombee Ave

Cambridge, OH 43725

Host Council: Cambridge Council

#1641

**Silver Rose Program @ 5:00 PM**

Dinner @ 5:30 PM

Meeting @ 7:00 PM

**Saturday, July 19, 2025**

**Youngstown Diocese**

Randolph Council Hall

2697 Waterloo Rd

Mogadore, OH 44260

Host Council: St. Joseph Council

#2039

Lunch @ 12:30 PM

Meeting @ 1:00 PM

**Sunday, July 20, 2025**

**Cleveland Diocese**

Holy Family Catholic Church

3179 Kent Rd

Stow, OH 44224

Host Council: Father Maruskin #10936

Lunch @ 12:30 PM

Meeting @ 1:30 PM



# Set Your Goals, Plan, and Have Some Fun

Worthy Brother Knights of the Great State of Ohio,

I would like to begin by saying congratulations to our IPSD Jeff Kiliany on a fantastic two years as State Deputy!

As we begin a new fraternal year, I would like to thank our new State Deputy, Mike Felerski, for giving me the opportunity to be his State General Program Director! I look forward to rolling out the new “We Are Called” State General Program when we go on tour later this month!

Right now, I would like to go over five talking points with you as we begin a new fraternal year.

## Number 1 - Establish your goal:

Your council’s success depends on your programs. As Grand Knight, work with your pastor to see what his vision for the parish is and decide what the council can do to support his vision. Your council’s programs should support the pastor, the parish, and the community. Your programs are key to membership recruitment and retention. By having exciting programs, you keep current members involved and active. A dynamic program also attracts new members.



## Number 2 - Planning Meeting:

Your Planning Meeting Agenda should be the SP-7 form from Supreme. Plan your whole year’s programs in **ONE** meeting in **ONE** night! This meeting needs to be set as soon as you have your council program staff in place. Set a goal to hold this meeting by the first week of August.



## Number 3 - Planning Guides:

You will have a Planning Guide for each program (Faith, Community, Family, and Life). Use these Planning Guides to set your four activities for each category for the entire year. You will also set the date of your activity and name the director or chair to run that activity.



## Number 4 - Communication for This Fraternal Year:

When you work with the individual programs and you have a question, please communicate the State Director of that particular program. Each State Program Director oversees running his own program and is best equipped to answer any questions from his program. If you cannot contact someone in a timely fashion, please feel free to contact the State General Program Director, me. You can reach me at 937-604-4355 or by e-mail at [tjmangan@icloud.com](mailto:tjmangan@icloud.com)

**Number 5 - If you are not having fun, you are doing something wrong.** You will be working hard to perform programs that will affect the lives of all people in your Family, Parish, Council, and Community. Your first obligation is to your family, so have fun and make sure the wives and kids participate in every council program. You are a volunteer for the Knights of Columbus, and the State Council deeply appreciates your commitment to your Faith, Family, Council, and Community!

have!  
Fun!

Fraternally,

**Tim Mangan - State General Program Director**

# From the Start, Get Involved

Brothers,

It's my goal over the next two years to try to make it a little easier for all councils to fulfill their four Life programs. I will try to remind you of some upcoming activities, while shouting out those councils with some extraordinary Life programs.



First, we are about halfway through the state with the Silver Rose program. This rose is to remind us of the roses from Our Lady of Guadalupe. Currently, it is in the Toledo Diocese and soon it will be in Cleveland, Youngstown and finally Steubenville. Thank you to all the host councils for your efforts for these prayer services. Please see the state website for the schedule.

The Special Olympics just recently held their state competition in Columbus. There are events going on throughout the year, and the fall events aren't that far off. Just contact your regional Special Olympics to see ways your council might be able to help.

Finally, the Ohio March for Life in Columbus will be on Friday, October 3. With only 3 months to go, you don't want to wait any longer to book your bus. If you wait too much longer, everything will be taken.

Vivat Jesus,

**Mike Incorvati - State Life Director**



## Be of Service to Your Communities

My name is Matt Smith, and I am honored to serve this year as your State Community Director. I have been employed at a Community-Based Correctional Facility for 17 years, starting in security and working my way to my current position of Administrator of Intake and Residential Services. I have been married to my beautiful wife, Cathy, for 21 years this year, and we are blessed to be the parents of our 15yr. old son, Aiden. I am a past Grand Knight of Van Wert Council 6034, past Faithful Navigator, former District Deputy #64, former Diocesan Membership Director for 2 terms, and most recently the Toledo Diocese Council Rejuvenation Chairman. I also currently serve as District Deputy #63.

Over the next 2 fraternal years the Faith in Action Community Program will be similar to those of previous years. However, there have been 2 new programs added.

- **Celebrating our Catholic Heritage** allows us to celebrate the cultures and traditions of our Parish Communities through festivals and other parish family events
- **Bright Futures** allows our councils to establish a rapport with schools and the youth of our communities. Guiding and developing the youth in our communities through our charitable works will mold young Catholic gentleman into our future leaders as they are the "Leaders of Tomorrow".

I would be remiss if I didn't congratulate my predecessor, Joe Hartle, with his International Award for his OFF THE STREETS program from Supreme Council. It is my goal to follow in his footsteps.

It is truly an honor to serve as your State Community Director, and I look forward to seeing the impact your councils have in the communities in which you live.

VIVAT JESUS!

**Matt Smith - State Community Director**



# Strengthening Catholic Men in Faith, Brotherhood, and Service

## Month One: Reclaiming Identity – Brother, Sons, Warriors

Brother—do you know who you are?

Because if you don't, the world will tell you—and it's been lying to you for decades.

You are not a background character. Not just a worker, a provider, or a parish name on a roster.

You were made for more.

God created you with a mission: to fight for truth, protect the vulnerable, sacrifice with love, lead with virtue, and live like Christ. That mission begins with reclaiming your identity:

You are a beloved **son of the Father**.

You are a **brother of Christ**.

You are a **warrior in the Church Militant**.

This is Month One of a two-year formation journey across Ohio. It's not a program - it's a wake-up call. In a time of spiritual confusion, we are called to rise, reclaim what's been lost, and walk boldly in faith.

You are not your past. You are not your failures. You are not alone. You are CALLED. That stirring in your heart? That's the Holy Spirit. The same voice that once called a father back from spiritual drift is calling you now: **"You were made for more."**

A response to the spiritual crisis Catholic men face. The Church needs you now. Not tomorrow. Now.

The Church is not waiting for someone else. It needs you now. Not later. Now.

*"Act like men, be strong."* (1 Cor 16:13)

### How We Answer the Call

Faith is not a DIY project. Christ sent His apostles out two by two for a reason: men need brotherhood. We're stronger together. Holiness is a team effort.

We are called to walk side by side - to pray together, train like spiritual athletes, and bear one another's burdens.

Garage Brotherhood Nights. Cigar & Reflection. Faith & Football. Because sometimes the door to Christ isn't the church steps - it's the back porch.

As St. John Paul II said: *"The new evangelization must involve new methods... in ordinary settings of life."* (Redemptoris Missio)

Bring Christ into the garage. The workplace break room. The grill. And from there—lead your family, serve your parish, and kneel before the Eucharist. Be Bold, and Act

Because Mass isn't optional. Adoration isn't for someone else. A man who kneels before the altar rises with strength to lead. The Eucharist is your fuel.

And then serve. Love your wife. Be present to your children. Feed the hungry. Help in your parish. Comfort the lonely. Show the world what servant leadership looks like.

This isn't about checking a box. It's about igniting a fire.

Every man in Ohio is being challenged to elevate his spiritual life in three arenas:

- **In the Parish** — Don't wait. Host a bold event. Organize a men's night of prayer, Call men who've drifted. Lay hands on them. Commission them. Light the match.
- **In Brotherhood** — Don't Walk alone. Build a small band of brothers who hunger for God. Pray, speak truth, and grow together. Set real goals. Call each other higher. No more shallow talk. Real men. Real formation. Real accountability.
- **In the Home** — Lead. Carve ten minutes each morning for prayer and Scripture. Practice Lectio Divina. Listen. Reflect. Speak words of blessing over your wife. Teach your children. Make the Eucharist the center of your week. Let your home become what the Church calls it: a domestic church.

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# Faith



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God's not asking for perfection - He's asking for faithfulness. Just take the first step. Grace will do the rest.

If you've fallen - get up. If you're distracted - refocus. If you've gone cold - let God relight the fire.

The Church needs men who:

- Kneel before God
- Lead with humility
- Fight with love
- Serve with joy

The Church needs that man. Your wife needs that man. Your children need that man. And the world is desperate for that man. You ARE that man.

So rise. Speak truth. Lead boldly. Burn with faith.

**We Are Called. We Are Equipped. This is Month One.**

Now go - form your brothers. Reclaim your name. Set fire to the mission.

**Vivat Jesus!**

**Chris Crum - State Faith Director**



## **Take Advantage of Summer, a Time for Families**

Worthy Brother Knights of the Great State of Ohio,

**Family**

A new Fraternal year begins, a New State Council Team has begun; **WE ARE CALLED** is the new State General Program. It's summertime, and there are all kinds of family activities going on. Now is the time for your council to plan for family activities. Plan a Family Picnic, or a Family Movie night, or a family game night. What ever family event you plan for your council, plan it, prepare for it, and INVITE other members of your parish family to join in, You just might get a new member or two. Invite prospective new members, families, or anyone else who you think might be interested in joining your council. Do not forget that we are a family service organization. Make sure that, when you plan your family activities, you also need to take care of the families in your council that are in need.

One of the major programs under Family is the Faith in Action - Food for Families. This program helps food pantries, or St. Vincent de Paul programs in feeding those in need. For every \$500 or 1,000 lbs. of food donated, Supreme Council will refund \$100 back to your council, with a maximum of \$500 per council per fraternal year. This is a fantastic program to start off the new fraternal year. Make sure you report it, and turn it in to me, so that I can give you credit for this activity.

You also need to make sure that your council's Family Director is compliant with the council member Safe Environment. Make sure that the Grand Knight submits this on the Form 365 with the Family Director's name and contact information included on the Form 365. Then he will get an email from Supreme with the information he needs to know and follow up to make that happen. If he's compliant by October 1<sup>st</sup>, that will be points awarded to your council as part of the **We Are Called** State General Program.

As your new State Family Director, I want to help your council obtain the maximum amount of points under the Family Program. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Email Address: [mcfreil2019@gmail.com](mailto:mcfreil2019@gmail.com). I am looking forward to seeing you on the upcoming tours. Promote Family Activities in your Council, invite all parishioners, and your council just might grow with new members.

Vivat Jesus !!

**Michael Freil - State Family Director**

# Measure-Up Success Begins with You

Brother Knights,

The annual measure up program is presently going on. If you haven't sent your Grant form and check to:

**Tony Offenberger - State Advocate**  
**15200 Muskingum River Road**  
**Lowell, Ohio 45744**

Please do so before August 1<sup>st</sup>. A big thank you to all the councils that have already submitted their grant form and check.

Thanks and God bless,

**Tony Offenberger - State Advocate**



## Coats for Kids Something Old - But Something New

Worthy Brother Knights of Ohio,

Something new has come to the State to help better promote one of our orders flagship programs, Coats for Kids! For the next two years, I'm very excited to be the State Coats for Kids Coordinator! My article will explain much of what I will be talking about in the coming weeks and months ahead.

**The Stats:** The Knights of Columbus distributes over 200,000 coats every year to around 1,500 councils. In 2024-2025, only 77 of those councils reported that they participated here in Ohio. We must grow that number to help provide more coats to those kids in need!

**Ohio's Plan:** It is understood that there are councils out there that may not be purchasing from Supreme, however, we are going to be helping provide some cost relief to councils if they purchase via the State. Several details are still to be finalized by Supreme and I, as we work together to come up with a program. Once the pricing information is finalized, I will send an email to the entire state with a formsite registration link.

**When Councils Need To Order By:** All councils must make their purchases to the Ohio State council by Sunday, September 14, 2025. On September 15, 2025, the State Coats for Kids Coordinator will send the proposal to Supreme to get approved. Once the proposal is approved by Supreme, the coats will be ordered by the Ohio State Council.

**Distribution Sites:** Ohio gets 5 distribution sites across the entire state. Right now we are looking to do one per diocese (combining Cleveland and Youngstown). I'm currently working with the State Officers or a representative of the new State Team from that Diocese to ensure what type of facility we can get. From there, we will have coat pickups and councils will be able to pick up their cases of coats on the designated dates. (Think Cash Bonanza ticket roadshow, only this is picking up Coats for Kids!)

I look forward to working with all of you over the next 2 years as we achieve a major goal of our new State Deputy, Mike Felerski, to grow this program across the state!

Vivat Jesus!

**Greg Singlar - State Coats for Kids Coordinator**



# Around the Buckeye State



State Deputy Mike Felerski and his wife, Heather, met with Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly, and his wife, Vanessa, at the State Deputy-elect training in June in New Haven, CT.



The Under 40 Club of the We Are Called State team at the June organizational meeting - from left Steubenville Diocese Growth Coordinator Brett Martz (33), State Media Coordinator Sean Weirich (35), State Coats for Kids Coordinator Greg Singlar (34), Cincinnati COR Coordinator Rob Richter (25), State Faith Director Chris Crum (30)

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**Archbishop Elder Council #1195** conducts an annual Baby Bottle donation drive for Old St. Mary's Pregnancy Care Center each April at St. Gertrude parish. Council members hand out baby bottles after all masses on Saturday and Sunday and collect the bottles over the next 2 weekends. This year's collection set a new record of **\$15,492** collected for the only pregnancy center in the Cincinnati area connected to a Catholic church. In addition, the council will submit for the ASAP program which will result in an additional \$400 from Supreme. Over the last 15 years that Elder Council has conducted this fundraiser, the generous parishioners of St. Gertrude have donated over **\$122,000** toward the pro-life efforts of Old St. Mary's Pregnancy Center. Presenting the check to Director Barbara Rose are (L to R) PGK Pete Marcello, Life Director Kevin Graham, PGK Phil Motz, and DGK Bob Wurzelbacher.



On June 3<sup>rd</sup> the **Struthers K of C Council 4471** joined in acknowledging the students at St. Nicholas School at their year-end awards celebration. Bestowing on one of their talented artistic students, Ms. Aubree Maloney, were a few Knights from the Council who presented to Ms. Maloney a plaque recognizing her as one of the "Keep Christ in Christmas" poster winners within the State of Ohio. Aubree finished in third place in the Ohio K of C's 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade division. Ms. Aubree qualified at the local level by finishing in first place at St. Nicholas School. Congratulations to Ms. Maloney on a job very well done. Council 4471 has proudly been awarding student cash prizes for many years in their "Keep Christ in Christmas" poster contest. It is one of the many student-based programs that the K of C supports, not only loyally, but nationally and worldwide.

## Like an orchestra:

# Stow EMS lauded for saving Stow man's life, helping injured wife

Nearly a year ago, Keith and Lori Limbacher were spending a typical evening in their Stow home when Keith lost consciousness on the couch. Suddenly, the routine day became one that would change their lives.

Lori quickly called 911 on June 30, 2024.

However, in the process of trying to get her husband, then 64, off the couch and onto the floor, she tripped over an ottoman and broke her left leg. She was still able to give Keith mouth-to-mouth resuscitation as instructed by a dispatcher.

A Stow police officer arrived about three minutes later, Lori said, and he was able to move the ottoman and give chest compressions until members of the Stow Fire Department arrived about a minute later to administer treatment.

"A lot of activity in a short time," Lori said. "It was like an orchestra. Hardly anything had to be said. It was terrifying to watch but amazing to see."

Today, Keith has made a nearly complete recovery from his heart attack, and Lori has resumed many of the activities she did before she broke her tibia. The Limbachers were able to attend two different ceremonies, one by Ohio Emergency Medical Services and one by the Knights of Columbus, where the Stow Fire Department was commended for helping the couple.

"Everyone was amazing," Lori said. "The Stow Fire Department said that police officer and me doing mouth to mouth probably saved his mind. He has a few short-term memory issues; he's otherwise OK."

Meanwhile, Lori said she "can do pretty much anything today" since the surgery on her leg.

## Stow Fire Department honored with 'Star of Life' award

Ohio EMS in May recognized several departments throughout Ohio for their courage and dedication in the face of difficult, life-threatening circumstances. Hosted by the Ohio Department of Public Safety's Division of EMS, the State Board of Emergency Medical, Fire and Transportation Services, and the Ohio Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians, the [Star of Life Awards](#) event honors first responders from across the state.

"We are very honored to receive the Star of Life award," Stow Fire Chief Mark Stone said. "I believe the saving of Mr. Limbacher's life is the result of collaboration and teamwork from Summit Emergency Communications Center, Stow police officers and the Stow Fire Department paramedics. This was not a textbook scenario in that the patient's wife, also the caller and first to initiate care, was injured and she too, became a patient."

Stone said he had a chance to meet the Limbachers at the Star of Life Awards ceremony.

"It was a joy to speak to the Limbachers at the awards ceremony," he said. "Often, we are not able to know the extent of the patient's outcome or level of recovery; this was the exception."

In addition, the **Knights of Columbus honored the fire department with the Blue Coat Award**, which is given to police, fire and first responders as an expression of gratitude and appreciation for their service to the community. The department was honored during a June 3 dinner in Stow.

"The award acknowledges individuals who have gone above and beyond the call of duty and embody mercy and compassion," said Don White, a member of the [Knights of Columbus](#). He added that Keith Limbacher also is a member. "Award recipients are chosen based on their exemplary service, commitment to their communities, and the positive impact they have on the lives of others."

Lori Limbacher said that Keith had a successful bypass surgery in September, and that she was grateful for the good medical care and the community support they received, which included numerous cards and meals.

Her husband's determination also factored in his healing, she added.

"His attitude and determination was a big part of it," she said. "During his first day at (Cleveland Clinic Rehabilitation Hospital) Edwin Shaw, he had trouble reading a clock." When Lori tried to reassure him that the clock was complicated, he replied, "Don't make excuses for me."

"He's been amazing," Lori said. "We are just really thankful to all those EMS people and all the prayers from our community. From July 6 through the end of August, we had meals every day and hundreds of cards. There were so many blessings.

"I wouldn't want this to happen again and I wish it hadn't happened but the community support we had was really a blessing. The EMS team was amazing. The job they did gave him a chance not many people in his situation would have survived. By saving his life, he saved mine. They did everything perfectly."

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