

Volume 2, Issue 6



Beacon

December, 2024



Jeff Kilianny
State Deputy
jtktg@yahoo.com

From the State Deputy

With the arrival of Advent and the coming of the Christmas season, we are all looking forward to spending time with our families and friends as we celebrate this very special time in the life of our Church. For all of us Knights, this is an especially important time of year, be-

cause it gives us the opportunity to live out our lives of charity and service, as well as to continue to grow spiritually. As I write these words, councils and Knights across Ohio are doing projects and activities that demonstrate the very best of what the Knights are. Supreme supported events such as Coats for Kids and Food for Families are just a small example of how we as Knights are showing our support for our parishes and communities. Through our efforts, we inspire others, both within and outside of our Order, to give greater consideration to the importance of true charity and its tremendous impact on the lives of others. This is a time when every Knight should take great pride in their membership. It is also a time for us to give the gift of membership to a relative, friend, or fellow parishioner. We can give them the opportunity to contribute their efforts to our mission. Whether they become involved

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From our State Chaplain

Dear Brother Knights,
May the Lord bless you and your families with a happy and peaceful Christmas season!

For many, the season is a time to party, for family gatherings, a time to shop and a time to enjoy a break from our regular work schedules. It is also a time when many are struggling just to survive, a time to grieve when family members and friends pass on to the next life, and a time of trying to measure up to the expectations of our culture, without the resources to make that happen.



Rev. James Lang
State Chaplain



As believers in Jesus, it is also a time to reflect on that first Christmas, with the Son of God putting Himself on the level of His creatures, born in a stable, an innkeeper trying to make the best of a situation, the lowest of the social scale

watching the flocks and seeing and hearing angels proclaiming a joyful message: The Messiah is born, peace on Earth to people of good will. It is a time to remember that Jesus was a helpless infant, and at the same

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***State Deputy's Message continued from previous page**

as an officer, a director, or just a member who, due to outside commitments, have little time to do more than just pay their annual dues, all are good Catholic gentlemen who enrich and contribute to our ranks -- and with your encouragement may come to strongly believe in what Knights do and what we represent.

At our November State Growth Team meeting, I introduced the idea of developing Diocesan Growth Recruitment teams, similar to our old 3rd Degree teams. These Recruitment Teams will be made up of 3 to 6 members that will be available to assist a council with their church or other council membership drive. The council should be the driving force in their recruitment efforts, but sometimes a council may not have someone who is versed or comfortable to do a pulpit appeal, or are not sure about the current recruitment materials available, or how to complete the E-Membership process, etc. These teams will be available to step in and assist a council in their preparation or anyway needed. If you are interested in being on a team in your diocese, or if this is something that your council could use help with, contact your Diocesan Growth Director. Any Brother Knight can be a part of these teams. Steps and guidelines are being established to help the teams and maintain some uniformity in each diocese.

By now I am sure that you are all familiar with the recent Supreme Initiative "COR", the largest faith-based initiative in the recent history of the Order. It was introduced with the purpose to form and strengthen the relationship with Jesus, with our Brother Knights, and of all men. COR is meant to address what every Catholic man needs; an active relationship with God, continued formation in faith & a life of prayer, and a brotherhood that strengthens and sharpens holy men. The three key and required elements of COR are Prayer, Formation, and Fraternity. We have already introduced COR here in Ohio and several councils have been hosting COR gatherings in their parishes.



Supreme has put a huge emphasis on promoting and expanding Cor order wide. To help facilitate this, we are hosting a training and collaboration session to provide our COR leaders and State personnel with a uniform game plan and the tools needed to grow and expand COR across the state. This session will take place this coming weekend, December 6-7, and will be held at the beautiful Maria Stein Spiritual Center in Maria Stein, Ohio. Our EFF Director for Ohio, Arron Mier, attended the COR weekend hosted by Supreme Council in New Haven and is excited to grow COR here in Ohio. He is going to present COR to our state leaders during this important weekend of introduction and training. We want everyone to be on the same page and to have the tools to bring COR to the councils in your diocese. We will then present this COR concept locally through Diocesan COR introduction and training sessions that will take place in all 6 dioceses sometime in January or February.

I need you to be a Christ-centered leader in your Diocese and help your Diocesan Evangelization and Faith Formation Director to introduce and grow this COR Initiative in the councils not currently utilizing this initiative.

Our Mid-year District deputy meeting will be January 3-5, 2025, and will be held at the Columbus Marriott Northwest. District Deputies please reserve this weekend for the State Mid-year Meeting. Each District Deputy is expected to attend this meeting that will cover an array of topics. Membership, Programming, New Council Development, Star Council Requirements, and paperwork and forms compliance are just a few of them that will be covered. We ask all District Deputies to please complete the registration even if you are not able to attend.



At our June meeting, we hosted council Grand Knights who were involved in some of our General Sessions and then attended specific Grand Knight training workshops. This proved to be quite successful and well received by those Grand Knights who were in attendance. For this January 2025 Mid-year Meeting, we are inviting council Financial Secretaries to attend a similar format, only the training workshops will be geared to Financial Secretary training.

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Supreme Training director, Jon Olson, will be conducting much of the financial Secretary training. A final agenda will be available in early December. Similar to the June meeting, the state council cannot pay mileage, per diem, or hotel expenses if spending the night. These expenses will be the responsibility of the individual Financial Secretary and or his local council. The State Council will provide lunch on Saturday and if you are spending the night in the hotel, you will be able to attend the Saturday evening banquet with your banquet meal provided by the state council. All Financial Secretaries attending must register in advance on the State Website. Click on the “Activities” tab, scroll down to, and click on “District Deputy Meeting”. A Red Box will show that reads: “[Click Here to Register](#)”. Follow and complete the information screen. For the “Select Role” section, click on “Grand Knight or Other Council Officer”



For this meeting, each District Deputy is required to bring a list of dates for each of his councils, as to when they would have some type of Growth Drive. Please get this information to your Diocesan District Deputy Coordinator. He will share this information with the Diocesan Growth Directors. We need to ensure the Drive is properly scheduled and arrange for any assistance that is needed.

I hope that you all enjoyed your time with family over the Thanksgiving holiday weekend. It is now time to turn our attention to the season of Advent and prepare ourselves for the coming of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the most joyous time of the year.

We, as Knights of Columbus, support the “Keep Christ in Christmas” campaign to remind people that Christmas is above all else, a Holy Day to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. With this in mind, Judy and I would like to wish you and your families, a very joyous and blessed Christmas Season!

mas Season!

“Let Us Be Worthy of the World He Died to Save!”

Fraternally,

Jeff Kiliany - State Deputy

jtktg@yahoo.com

330-853-6099

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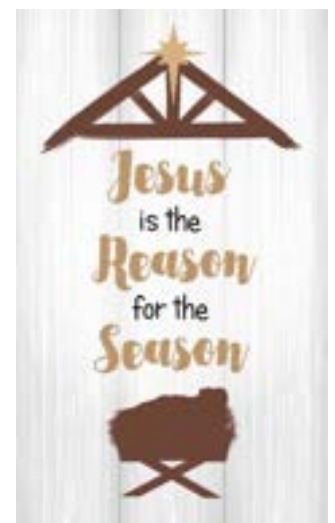
time, King of Kings, Lord of Lords, Father Forever, Prince of Peace.

Christmas is a season of contrasts. As knights and followers of Jesus, we have a mission: bringing the message of Jesus to those who need it most. Christmas begins a journey that goes all the way to Good Friday and Easter. Our own journey of faith includes good times and bad. The Good Shepherd, Emmanuel, is there to guide us. We all know the program: Jesus is the reason for the season. Merry Christmas!

Vivat Jesus!

In Christ,

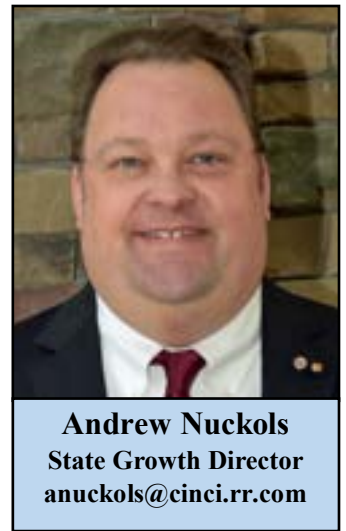
Fr. Jim Lang - State Chaplain



Growth

Ohio Brother Knights,

As we enter the Advent season and the month of December, we are almost halfway through our fraternal year. Our Growth numbers are falling short by 300 men. We can remedy this by asking every eligible Catholic man to join our Order this Advent season. Using the E-Member portal (kofc.org/JoinUs) website is quite simple. It only takes a minutes to get a new member signed up. Please do not forget to click the blue “**BlessedMcGivney**” promo code to join online for free for the first year. We need these men to help us and them grow stronger in our Faith and help those in need. Please extend the gift of brotherhood by inviting men to join the Knights of Columbus. A perfect gift for prospective members is the “Vivat Jesus 2025” booklets (item #11248BX-G) that can be purchased in bulk orders via Supplies Online. These booklets are sold in bulk quantities at \$100.00 per 20.



This past week we lost another K of C Leader and Brother Knight too soon. We lost Inspector Membership Nick Gresko, who was State Membership Director during PSD Robert Collins administration. Please keep Alicia and the Gresko Family in your prayers. *Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen*

Fraternally,

Andrew Nuckols - State Growth Director



Top Growth in Ohio As of 11/30/2024:

Council Number and Name	District	Division	Status	Values			YTD Gain	% Gain	% Growth
				Membership July 1	Star Council Goal	Supreme Goal			
18527 ST. ELIAS MELKITE	22	0	ACTIVE	20	0	0	17	0.00%	85.00%
13705 CHRIST THE KING	47	5	ACTIVE	18	5	3	2	58.40%	11.11%
18195 SAN PEDRO	36	5	ACTIVE	37	5	3	4	116.80%	10.81%
13081 HOLY TRINITY ZOAR	34	5	ACTIVE	40	5	3	4	116.80%	10.00%
5429 POPE JOHN XXIII	37	4	ACTIVE	83	5	3	8	233.60%	9.64%
14962 IMMACULATE CONCEPTION	42	4	ACTIVE	75	5	3	6	175.20%	8.00%
1716 FATHER FRANK PATALA	54	4	ACTIVE	80	5	3	6	175.20%	7.50%
14834 SALVE REGINA	14	4	ACTIVE	84	5	3	6	175.20%	7.14%
2643 LAKEWOOD	22	4	ACTIVE	86	5	3	6	175.20%	6.98%
10749 SS FRANCIS GASPAR	69	3	ACTIVE	90	5	3	6	175.20%	6.67%
14545 ST LAWRENCE-PRICE HILL	17	5	ACTIVE	46	5	3	3	87.60%	6.52%
3904 ST JUDE	58	4	ACTIVE	77	5	3	5	146.00%	6.49%
11828 SAINT JOHN NEUMANN	51	3	ACTIVE	93	5	3	6	175.20%	6.45%
11208 ST BRENDAN	35	1	ACTIVE	218	12	8	14	170.33%	6.42%
14406 OUR LADY OF CHARITY	26	3	ACTIVE	89	5	3	5	146.00%	5.62%
4847 BRUNSWICK	24	1	ACTIVE	208	12	8	11	133.83%	5.29%
11665 FR BILL JOHNSON	43	3	ACTIVE	115	7	5	6	125.14%	5.22%
8320 JOHN CARROLL	33	0	COLLEGE	39	5	3	2	58.40%	5.13%
11354 SAINT CATHARINE	44	2	ACTIVE	158	9	6	8	129.78%	5.06%
12641 ST LEONARD	43	5	ACTIVE	40	5	3	2	58.40%	5.00%
15901 ST ADALBERT	21	5	ACTIVE	42	5	3	2	58.40%	4.76%
15573 HOLY FAMILY	81	4	ACTIVE	85	5	3	4	116.80%	4.71%
11311 ST AGATHA	36	4	ACTIVE	65	5	3	3	87.60%	4.62%
14671 SACRED HEARTS	45	5	ACTIVE	44	5	3	2	58.40%	4.55%



LIFE

Preparing the Way

Welcome to Advent. As we anticipate Christmas and the birth of our Lord and Savior, I think we can all be happy that Mary chose life. Thank you to the councils that have supported life in so many creative ways across Ohio and reported those activities. A few interesting activities are: working right-to-life/pro-life booths at fairs, Novenas for life, donating gym time for a special Olympics team, fundraiser meal for refuge relief fund, prayer chains for life, and attending and donating to pregnancy centers and fundraising dinners.



December is a great time to plan your council's trip to the national March for Life in Washington, DC, or to a local march in January. It's also a great time to coordinate a Novena for Life in your council and your parish. Prayer works, and if we can't make the event, we can work toward the success of the event with prayer. If you can't be a marcher, you can be a march supporter.

In closing, I'd like to wish you all a safe and sacrament-filled holiday season. May you and yours have a fruitful Advent that makes you yearn for the arrival of the Lord, a blessed Christmas, and a safe New Year. Spread the word far and wide that Christmas STARTS on Christmas Day. So, leave those decorations up, light the

lights, revel in Jesus in his manger and enjoy a full Christmas season, all 12 days of it!

Vivat Jesus!

Stewart Vetter - State Life Director



Stewart Vetter
Life Director
betterwithvetter
@hotmail.com

December Training Opportunities

Register for upcoming online sessions by clicking on the links below or you can watch on demand after the live session. On demand training can be found at kofc.org/training.

Upcoming Training Sessions (Note: All Times are Eastern)

English Training:

December 2, 2024 8:00 PM [Navigating Council Forms](#)

December 10, 2024 8:00 PM [Transitioning from Online to Council Membership](#)

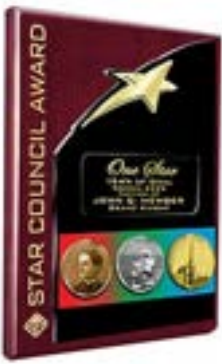
December 11, 2024 10:00 PM [Grand Knight Advanced Training](#)

December 17, 2024 8:00 PM [Membership Retention](#)

2,000 new members

Did it once, why not twice?

59 Star Councils



Star Council Award and State Program Contest

Worthy Grand Knights and Council Officers,

Brother Mike Jordon announced during the July state council tour that he was initiating a “First-Half Incentive” that ended on November 15. All councils who were credited with two fraternal benefit events and had positive membership growth will have \$25 donated to

the 2024 Ohio State Council “Matching Funds” Campaign in their council’s name. I am pleased to announce that 42 councils achieved the criteria. Congratulations to Councils: 341, 546, 774, 1162, 1991, 2158, 2362, 2643, 2726, 2927, 3123, 3698, 3724, 3727, 3730, 3813, 3930, 3970, 4022, 4603, 4664, 4847, 5128, 5429, 5628, 6373, 10749, 10936, 11208, 11216, 11550, 11665, 12359, 12772, 13608, 14457, 14665, 14834, 15458, 15901, 16373, 16376.

I would like to review the requirements for the “Let us be Worthy” State Program Contest. For each of the four Faith in Action categories, councils are asked to submit the following:

	Total Points	
Honoree of the Year.	50 points	50
Safe Environment Compliant for specific council officer.	25 points	25
Two activities from Supreme Council Faith in Action list.	25 points each	50
Three activities not listed but associated with FIA category	25 points each	75



Total Points each category:	200
Total Points all FOUR FIA categories:	800
Total Membership activities:	200+

Total points for all activities of “*Let us be Worthy*” program: **1000+**

Please Note:

- Report an activity only once, no matter how many times you conduct the activity. These include: Recitation of the Rosary, working a Fish Fry or Pancake Breakfast for the parish, and Family of the Month. (You should submit the Family of the Month one time to the State, but monthly to Supreme using Form 10784.)
- Do not submit an activity report for Safe Compliant Certification. Points will be automatically awarded when we receive notice from Supreme Council.
- I have suggested that our four State Program Directors include suggestions in our state newsletter for activities that are not listed in Supreme’s Faith in Action manual, but can be used as an elective that is associated with the specific category. Examples: Family Picnics and Memorial Masses are not listed under the Family - Faith in Action, but they can be used as a Family



Ken Girt - PSD
 General Program Director
 Roundtable Chairman
 Rejuvenation Chairman
 Special Reports Chairman
 girtken@sssnet.com



The following chart (**next page**) will list the Let us be Worthy State Program Contest in a single view. It may help councils schedule events to ensure the correct activity is submitted in the appropriate category.

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2023-2025 "Let Us Be Worthy" State Program Contest				
FAITH	FAMILY	COMMUNITY	LIFE	Growth
Mark Kahunca	Tim Mangen	Joe Hartle	Stu Vetter	Andy Nuckols
Chap/Rel of the Year MANDATORY 50 pts	Family of the Year MANDATORY 50 pts	Youth of the Year MANDATORY 50 pts	Knight of the Year MANDATORY 50 pts	Membership Drive MANDATORY 25 pts
Safe Env Compliant: Grand Knight 25 pts	Safe Env Compliant: Family Dir 25 pts	Safe Env Compliant: Comunity Dir 25 pts	Safe Env Compliant: Gen Prog Dir 25 pts	Membership Drive MANDATORY 25 pts
FIA Supreme Program 25 pts	FIA Supreme Program 25 pts	FIA Supreme Program 25 pts	FIA Supreme Program 25 pts	In Person CUF Degree Council Team 25 pts
FIA Supreme Program 25 pts	FIA Supreme Program 25 pts	FIA Supreme Program 25 pts	FIA Supreme Program 25 pts	Fraternal Benefit Program 25 pts
FAITH Activity Elective 25 pts	FAMILY Activity Elective 25 pts	COMMUNITY Activity Elective 25 pts	LIFE Activity Elective 25 pts	% Supreme Goal as of May 1
FAITH Activity Elective 25 pts	FAMILY Activity Elective 25 pts	COMMUNITY Activity Elective 25 pts	LIFE Activity Elective 25 pts	
FAITH Activity Elective 25 pts	FAMILY Activity Elective 25 pts	COMMUNITY Activity Elective 25 pts	LIFE Activity Elective 25 pts	
200 points	200 points	200 points	200 points	200 points +

We look forward to working with the councils in promoting the charitable activities that we do here in Ohio. Let any of the state activity directors or me know if you have any questions. Our goal is helping your council “max” the “Let us be Worthy” State Program. Then your Growth Percentage will be the deciding factor for your council’s ranking in the state. We have four and ½ months left in the program contest. Good luck!

The December Star Council Report will be distributed in early December. As State Special Report Chairman, I also had an incentive drawing: the Mid-Year Star Council Award Drawing. To qualify for this drawing, a council is required to accomplish the following by January 1, 2025:

1. Have the Form 365 submitted.
2. Have all four council officers either compliant or in process for Safe Environment.
3. Have one Fraternal Benefit Event credited with 50% of your council’s participation quota.
4. Achieve 50% of your council’s membership quota.
5. Have two activities credited in each of the four Faith in Action categories of the Let us be Worthy State Program Contest.

There will be four \$75 gift cards drawn for every twenty councils who achieved the contest criteria.

I wish you and yours a Blessed and Joyous Christmas!

Vivat Jesus!

**Ken Girt, PSD - State Special Report Chairman
State General Program Director**

330-608-1729 girtken@sssnet.com



Dear Brother Knights,

Hello,

Time is running out for the first turn-in for this year's SOS Program!

Below you'll find the turn-in form below for you to fill out and mail back to me.

The **First Turn In** is before and no later than **December 15, 2024**

If you have any questions, please contact me at cuzza52@gmail.com

Sincerely,

Mark A. Siracusa - Immediate Past State Deputy



SUPPORT OUR SEMINARIANS **C****A****M****P****A****I****G****N** **2024 – 2025**

YOUR COUNCIL'S DONATIONS WILL TURN INTO BIG \$\$\$\$\$\$ FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE MEN IN OUR SEMINARIES AND THE VOCATION AWARENESS IN YOUR OWN DIOCESE.

FOR CONVENTION AWARDS AND DIOCESAN TOTALS.

**PLEASE USE THE FORM BELOW TO ACCOMPANY YOUR DONATION.
THANK-YOU FOR WHAT YOU DO FOR ALL OF OUR SEMINARIANS!**

First Turn In- December 15, 2024

Diocese Council Number & Name
Amount: Date: Chairman:

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: OHIO STATE COUNCIL KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
ADD TO MEMO LINE: SOS DONATION**

MAIL THE FORM AND YOUR CHECK TO:

**Mark Siracusa
15398 Silver Pine Court
Perrysburg, OH 43551**

2025 Ohio Knights of Columbus Bowling Tournament

Dear Brother Knights:



AN UPDATE

- Reservations are pouring in - there are only 19 teams per weekend!
- **Week 1 March 8/9** – 4 teams (Councils 3861 and 14344)
- **Week 2 March 15/16** – 4 teams (Council 4603)
- **Week 3 March 22/23** - 17 teams (Councils 1016, 2661, 4801)
- Teams are bowled on Saturdays; Singles and Doubles will be bowled on Sundays!

Consider joining a great fraternal activity that you may have not considered recently – the fun and excitement of bowling! In case you didn't know it - the Ohio Knights of Columbus have an [annual bowling tournament](#) and you are encouraged to join in!

Each of you is encouraged to take part in the camaraderie, competition, and fun of bowling!

Below you will find links with information on the [107th Ohio K of C State Bowling Tournament](#). The tournament is in Toledo in March over several weekends; the **deadline for entry is January 1**.

K of C Bowlers 2025 Tournament Info

Letters have been mailed for the 2025 Ohio State Bowling Tournament in Toledo - you should receive hard copies shortly. Below are links for the same five sheets you will receive by US Mail.

Please get with your bowlers and return your team information by January 1st. Lanes are limited to 19 teams per week.

WHERE: The 107th Invitational will be held at [Miracle Lanes, 5030 Jackman Rd, Toledo, OH 43613](#)

WHEN: Weekends of **March 8/9, March 15/16, March 22/23**

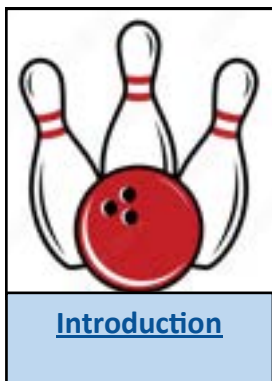
LODGING: We have 2 host hotels for 2025:

[Hampton Inn at Westgate Hospitality - 3434 Secor Rd, Toledo Ohio, 43606](#) (419-214-5555)

[Courtyard Toledo West - 3536 Secor Rd, Toledo, OH 43606](#) (419-724-0444)



The point-of-contact for any questions on the tournament is **TJ Russo** at arusso@gbbn.com or **513-403-7236**. If you have any questions, please email or call.





FAITH

Give the Gift of Your Help

Brothers in Christ,

It is hard to believe we are already entering the Christmas season. I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving with family and friends. I would like you all take a moment to remember and say a prayer for the families of our recently departed brothers who will have an empty chair this year. I pray all of you have a blessed and joyous Christmas.

I am currently reviewing the progress of reporting on the Faith activities submitted thus far and find that we have lagged a bit from last year. Regarding choices, please submit anything you believe fits under the Faith category. Jeff and the State Council know that our councils are doing many things to help our parishes. This Christmas season is a perfect opportunity to ask Father “what do you need?”. Then send me a report. It is easy. As for the Faith in Action programs, now is the time to plan out the remainder of the fraternal year. Sacramental Gifts for our new communicants, Bibles for our newly converted and baptized, chalices and vestments for our newly ordained priests, are just a few ideas. I know you all say the rosary, and many make an RSVP donation, so please send me a report. With the winter months here we have an opportunity to gather for a Holy Hour and time for Spiritual Reflection. If you have not seen the Into the Breach series, it is well worth the time. Each part leads to interesting and insightful discussion. Finally, don’t forget your Chaplain/Spiritual Advisor of the Year. Now is the time to pick yours and send me the nomination with your write-up on why your nominee should be considered for the State award at the next convention.

Once more, wishing you and your families a very Merry Christmas from my house to yours. Please stay safe and stay active!

God Bless! Vivat Jesus!

Mark Kahanca - State Faith Director



Mark Kahanca
Faith Director
mark.faithdirectorohio@gmail.com



Your December Church Bulletin Blurb

Supporting our Clergy is one of the most crucial things we can do as Catholics. The Knights of Columbus have great ways that support our priests, bishops, deacons, etc. Want to learn more and be a part of that? Go to kofcoho.org and click on Join Us. For more information contact Grand Knight (name, phone, email here).

Greg Singlar - E-Membership Coordinator



Greg Singlar
E-Membership Coordinator
gsing50@gmail.com





Giving Gifts to Those in Need

My Brother Knights,

We are officially in Christmas season! Let us rejoice, knowing that our Savior is coming! Let me begin by wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and the happiest of New Years!



Joe Hartle
Community Director
joseph.hartle@gmail.com

COMMUNITY

Thank you to all the councils that have participated in the Coats for Kids program. You are doing great things for those children in need of a warm winter coat, and I encourage all councils to participate in some manner. Can't hold your own distribution or purchase many coats? Purchase coats from a local supplier or Knights Gear (or collect gently used coats from your parish/community), and distribute them to a school with needy kids or a local family homeless shelter. No child should go through winter without a warm jacket to wear!

There are many good things that your council can do during the Christmas Season to make your community a better place. Several councils have already planned activities, while others are still looking for ideas. Reach out to your homeless shelters, food pantries, and resource centers to see how you can help out this season and beyond.

One particular project that I would like all councils to consider engaging in is a Build-a-Bed project. Build-a-Bed is a project geared towards building and supplying beds to children in need. I was shocked to learn how many kids go to sleep each night without a bed, instead sleeping on a mattress on the floor or in a sleeping bag without a mattress. Every child should know the comfort of sleeping in his or her own bed each night. There are many ways that you can help out with these projects throughout the state. First, check around your diocese to see if any Knights or other civic organizations are participating in Build-a-Bed, such as "Let's Build Beds" in Northwest Ohio and "Bed Brigade of Columbus". Second, reach out to see how

you can help with monetary donations and manpower to build/decorate beds, or even truck/trailer support to help deliver beds to those in need. Finally, organize your council to provide the needed support and help get beds to kids in need.

I recently was discussing this project with a Brother Knight who had participated in a local Build-a-Bed and got to help deliver a bed to a family in need. The level of joy that he described when they delivered the new bed to a child cannot be expressed in the words on this page. This young child had never had a bed and was absolutely thrilled to have one that was their very own. What could make a better Christmas gift than to give a child in need their very own comfortable bed!

For all councils that participate in Build-a-Bed, you can report those through either Helping Hands or a Council Choice. Also, if you are unable to participate in Habitat for Humanity ("HFH") projects, I will accept a Build-a-Bed activity as a replacement for HFH for state activity reporting purposes (NOTE: This will not count for Supreme/Columbian Award credit under HFH, but will count as a community activity on your Columbian Award).



Thank you for all you do for your communities and what you will do during this Christmas season! Be sure to report your activities on the state website so that we can see what you are doing and give you the applicable points for your state general program! Any questions, please reach out to me anytime. Again a VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS to you and your families!

Vivat Jesus!

Joe Hartle – State Community Director



FAMILY

Consider Holiday Family Activities

Congratulations to the **Michael Minardi Family and Council 14891** for being named the State of Ohio **Family of the Month** in October, 2024 by the Supreme Council! If you want to see your families recognized, remember to submit your fully completed Family of the Month (FOTM) nomination to Supreme via Form 10784 each month! Speaking of Form 10784, there seems to be a handful of councils submitting this form to Supreme when selecting a Family of the Month. Remember,

this is a monthly activity or at least should be done quarterly. If your council selects a Family of the Month, but has never submitted the Form 10784, just reach out to me and I will be happy to assist you with that!

The Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest has begun. By now, the posters should be completed and council judging needs to take place. Council judging needs to be completed by December 31st. After December 31st, they need to go to your district deputy, so he can judge them and pass them along to his district deputy coordinator. The district deputy coordinator can then judge them and pass them on to me. I will send out an e-mail to the district deputy coordinators with more information. Speaking of Keep Christ in Christmas, this is an example of a Family Faith in Action Program a council can follow that involves many different activities. Whether your council puts up a nativity scene, sells Christmas themed Christmas cards, hands out Keep Christ in Christmas magnets or buttons, sponsors a Keep Christ in Christmas Billboard or participates in the Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest, these are a few examples of different activities a council can do to participate in the Keep Christ in Christmas Faith in Action Family Program. Whatever activities your council decide, you can report it to me in just one report. Just let me know the diverse ways your council participates in this important family activity, as it all counts as the same Faith in Action Family Program.

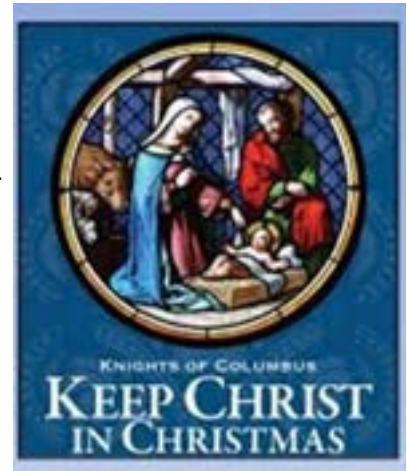
If your council is looking for some family council program ideas in addition to the Supreme Programs, here are a few that you may already be doing or can easily be done!

How about planning an annual marriage vow renewal program for your parish? Contact your chaplain or parish priest

to plan a mass for married couples to renew their vows. Any activity your council does includes either families and children of divorced or single parents. Maintain contact with or aids widows and dependent children. Be sure to include them in your council newsletter mailing list. Family events have always been big in most of our lives. It is important to plan a family activity that allows everyone to participate. What better way to promote our family values is to enjoy each other's company and have fun by catching a local ball game, a holiday dinner or party, visiting the local zoo or visiting a museum, hosting a game night or a movie night with a pizza party included. The idea is to get families together to interact and build relationships and recruit new members.



Tim Mangan
Family Director
tjmangan@icloud.com



May you and your families have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Fraternally,

Tim Mangan - State Family Program Director

Around the State



Canton Council #341 presented needy children at St. Peter School with warm winter coats through the “Coats for Kids” Program



Precious Blood Assembly #2947 has provided the Color Guard for the annual Cincinnati Right to Life Fall banquet for over a decade and did so again this year....

At left: Posting the colors are Sir Knights Tom Brisken, Phil Motz, and Kevin Graham

At right: The Color Guard consisted of SKs Kevin Graham, Tom Brisken, Pete Marcello, Phil Motz, Tom Hahn, and District 2 Marshall Mike Byrne

Around the State



Archbishop Elder Council #1195 and Joseph Cardinal Bernardin Council #12359 partnered to purchase and distribute coats to children at St. Boniface school in the Northside neighborhood of Cincinnati as part of the Coats for Kids Program.

At left: (L to R): GK Bill Shefcik – Elder, PGK Steve Yards – Bernardin, DD Tom Hahn, GK Tom Geers-Bernardin

At right: (L to R): PGK Bob Hilmer-Bernardin, GK Bill Shefcik-Elder, Jim Hook-Elder, DD Tom Hahn, Ted Czupik-Bernardin



State Deputy Jeff Kiliany paid a visit to **Holy Martyrs Council #4733** in Canton on Nov. 12th to present the council with its 12th consecutive Star Council Award. Pictured from left are the Grand Knights during the 12-year stretch - DD #74, Paul Eckinger (2012-2014), Don Boron, Jr. (2014-2016), Frank Kohring (2016-2018), in photo Bruce Nordman, Sr. (2018-2021 - passed away 1/28/2024), Rick Cuenot (2021-2024) and State Deputy Jeff Kiliany. Special thanks to PSD Bob Collins, who couldn't be there, for providing a bottle of Jameson whisky for the after-meeting celebration.

Around the State



Monsignor Edward P. Graham Assembly #828 in Canton, held its annual Memorial Mass along with **Canton Council #341**, **Louisville Council #2530**, **Holy Martyrs Council #4733**, **Uniontown Holy Spirit Council #14959** and **St. Michael the Archangel Council #15458** on Monday, Nov. 25th in St. Michael the Archangel Church.

Pictured at left: Color Corps Commander Joe Ryan, Diocesan Marshall Bill Gotter, and Faithful Navigator Chris Dodson

Pictured at right: Color Corps Commander Joe Ryan, PGK/PFN Bob Artino (Council #15458), Diocesan Marshall Bill Gotter, Fr. Joseph Witmer, Assembly #828 Chaplain, Fr. Ed Beneleit, and Jim Bates (Council 15458) Faithful Navigator Chris Dodson



Knights of Columbus **Council 1344 Napoleon** set up the outdoor Nativity set for Saint Augustine Parish. Pictured Andy Driskel, Dave Steingass, and Will Wagner. Not pictured Doug Herman and D.J. Batt



Holy Martyrs Council 4733 in Canton erected lighted nativity scene silhouettes in front of St. Benedict Church in Canton and St. James Church in Waynesburg. These were built by members Bill Kress, Ted Laubacher, Adam Miller, and Greg Hooley.