



Buckeye Bulletin

Volume 1 - Issue 2

August - 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

Brother Knights,

It seems like we live in unprecedented times. At least from our prospective we do. But every generation has, and they have faced the trials and tribulations of great obstacles. World wars, societal unrest, counter-cultural revolutions, and loss of some freedoms. That is how our order was founded, during what Blessed Father McGivney saw as a great spiritual crisis and a societal crisis. Young men were leaving the church, and he saw an absence of any support mechanism for the widows and orphans of men dying too early in their lives. This is a history every Knight knows well.

Father McGivney was *called* by God twice during his short life: First to the Priesthood, and second to find a way to solve those issues facing our Catholic faith in the late 1800s. This was not going to be an easy task. It was a great challenge, but it was not insurmountable. Blessed Michael McGivney; was **CALLED**. We are part of his legacy, to carry it forward, working together.



Michael J. Felerski

State Deputy

mfelerski@icloud.com



**It's Time
to Step Up!**

You have already been called; and now is the time to step up, invigorate your fellow council members, and do the great things we do as Knights ...and that includes *inviting* men to join our Order.

Once again, brothers, thank you for doing all the things you do for your council, parish, community, and our Order.

We Are Called!

Michael J. Felerski - State Deputy

****State Deputy Felerski and Immediate Past State Deputy Kiliany are heading to Washington, DC this week for the annual Supreme Convention, along with the eight delegates elected from across Ohio.***

We're Not Alone on Our Journey

My brother Knights,

Soon after the election of Pope Leo there was a big Mass and festival in the city of Chicago to celebrate and pray for him. It was held in the ballpark of the Chicago White Sox, which is Pope Leo's favorite baseball team. The festival was meant especially for youth, though people of all ages attended.

What was unique about this special gathering is that at one point, Pope Leo delivered a video message to the gathered youth via the stadium jumbotrons. I wanted to share a portion of his address that I found especially moving. In this passage he acknowledges directly that many young people today (and likely some in the crowd) do not regularly practice the faith, and I love how Pope Leo invites them to take a first step towards doing so.

“As you grew up together, you may realize, especially having lived through the time of the pandemic, times of isolation, of great difficulty — sometimes even difficulties in your families — in our world today, sometimes it may be that the context of your life has not given you the opportunity to live the faith, to live as participants in a faith community.

And I'd like to take this opportunity to invite each one of you to look into your own hearts, to recognize that God is present, and that perhaps in many different ways, God is reaching out to you, calling you, inviting you to know His Son, Jesus Christ, through the Scriptures, perhaps through a friend or a relative, a grandparent, who might be a person of faith — but to discover how important it is for each one of us to pay attention to the presence of God in our hearts — to that longing for love in our lives, for searching, a true searching for finding the ways that we may be able to do something with our own lives to serve others. And in that service to others, we may find the coming together in friendship, building up community, we too can find true meaning in our lives.”

I love how, in particular, he encourages them to reach out to someone they know who is a person of faith, even specifically naming grandparents. Pope Leo knows well that it makes the path to faith and religious practice easier if they have someone who can walk that journey with them. And then how he follows it up with emphasizing the hope and healing that can come from living the faith together with others in the context of the community.

It seems to me that Pope Leo is teaching us a little something about evangelization here, as well as something about the importance of fraternity and unity, two components of authentic community. If there is someone in your life who is away from the practice of faith, or perhaps has never known faith at all, maybe the Lord is asking you to be that person to walk with them. It is important for us to invite men who are practicing the faith to become Knights. But it is even more important for us to invite those Catholics we know who have let their practice of the faith to return, or to invite someone without any religious background to consider becoming Catholic. Many people without any religious affiliation are searching for meaning, searching for something to anchor their life. We have that in our Catholic faith. Let's invite them to come to know that faith as well. Vivat Jesus!

God bless,

Fr. John Paul Walker, OP - State Chaplain



Fr. John Paul Walker
State Chaplain

***Click [here](#) to view an introductory YouTube video that is the start of a monthly series by Ohio's State Chaplain of the Knights of Columbus - Father John Paul Walker O.P. Each month these videos will cover some aspect of our Catholic faith. In this video, Father Walker discusses what makes us different as Knights of Columbus.**

Growth Team Ohio

From the Desk of

Grandpa Peddigrew



Mark Kosobud
State Growth Chairman
mkosobud@yahoo.com

The Membership Director of council A located in the Arch was working to develop a relationship with a potential candidate. After several days of discussion, the candidate indicated he would join the council and said he would do the online join process that very day. After several days, the Membership Director became concerned when his new member did not show up on the Prospect Tab. After consulting with the appropriate District Deputy and the Diocesan Growth Coordinator, it was

discovered that the mysterious missing candidate had actually been assigned to council B, whose membership team had already Exemplified him and transferred him into their council, the new member credit going to council B instead of the council A.

While a bit confusing, it was passed off as an accidental issue and the issue was dropped. Until it happened again several weeks later. Once again, a candidate agreed to join council A, said they would use the online join soon, and was eventually found on yet a third council's roster.

After a flurry of emails, the issue was finally revealed to be one of the new features of the online join system. When a candidate uses the online join process and fills in the form, he eventually reaches a box labeled <Preferred Local Council>. Ideally, the candidate will have received the council number for the council he is interested in joining, which he then enters. If he did not receive a council number, or if he has forgotten it, Supreme has placed a handy link right below the box which says, "Council Number Lookup". This link will use the candidates' previously entered Zip code to find the closest council for the candidate.

The problem arises when the council the candidate wants to join and his home address are in different, often widely separated, areas. Supreme's system does not look at Parish information and thus does not know when a candidate's choice of council would be different than "closest to my house".

"Grandpa Peddigrew Says..."

Jumpin' Jehosaphat! It's *always* them little things that create the biggest snags, yes siree. The easiest way to solve them problems is to put down the right number on a piece o' paper and put it in the man's hand, stead o' leavin' it up to some compooter thingy that ain't got no sense! But it's a bound to happen now and then, cause you cain't control when some guy's gona whana join up!

Reminds me of a fisn'n derby that I fished in one time. Fish'n derby is what you youngsters now call a toorneement. It was a very crowded lake with lots o' anglers compete'n for them prizes. And with all them people a fish'n for the same fish, usin' the same types o' bait and casting to the same promisin' spots – bound to be some accidents.

Yes siree, Grandpa learned some valuable lessons on that trip. One is, keep your eyes on yer offer at all times! Even more important, make sure you know *your* bait! Out in the water, one crankbait looks just like another – especially if they's made by the same folks! It's the same with that there Invitin' thing Mr. Smart Feller's always a talk'n about. Give the guy yer council number and be sure he puts it someplace where he won't lose it! Better yet, keep your eye on him while he does that there compooter thing and gets joined up!

Another thing Grandpa learned was to be ready to reel in yer catch and have the net ready! Saw far too many people lose their catch to someone else because they had to go fetch their net! Basically, what yer doin' is luv'in your fish

***continued on next page**

*continued from previous page

into your net. It's the same with the Invite'n. Find the guy, get him the right tools to join, and be sure to follow through *with* him until he's firmly in yer net!

Jist 'member what 'ole Grampa Peddigrew says. Know what yer look'n for and where ta find it. Use the right offer and be sure you know yours from everybody else's. Put it where the fish are likely to be. Use them barriers to yer advantage – include'n keep others away from yer offer! And when ya got'm on the hook – just remember, the job ain't done till he's in your net and not one moment before!

Y'u'll do okay. Keep yer line wet and yer reel dry!

See you feller's out on the lake!

C. J. Peddigrew

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 16th), 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

An Opportunity for Growth

Brother Knights,

The State Tour is behind us, the new fraternal year is underway, and exciting new opportunities lie ahead.

I'm blessed to report an increase in the number of council EFF Director appointments since the Tour. Look for the exact number in next month's newsletter.

Since there are a number of new council officers around the state, I'd like to reiterate who your Diocesan Cor Directors are.

Cincinnati: Robert Richter

Cleveland: Ty Tyjewski

Columbus: Marshall Myers

Steubenville: Roger Gibson

Toledo: Mike Ginnetti

Youngstown: Peter Rich

Cor Clergy Liaison: Fr. Adam Hertzfeld

These men, along with the State Officers, are here to help ensure your success with Cor. Reach out to any of us if you need assistance with starting Cor in your parish.

With that out of the way, I'd like to share with you an experience that more deeply solidified my belief in Cor.

This past Sunday, my family was invited to celebrate a Jubilee mass for the Sisters of Notre Dame. There were 18 religious Sisters celebrating from 40 to 75 years of dedication to Christ. There were 13 priests concelebrating the mass.

It occurred to me that all it took was a sincere encounter with Christ and the faith to follow through. By doing so, these 31 individuals have dedicated their lives to Christ and continue to evangelize those they encounter.

I'm not saying that Cor will be a conversion to religious life, but offering men an opportunity to encounter Christ can only have a positive outcome. Have faith in your ability to evangelize your fellow man and dedicate the time to start or attend a Cor Gathering in your parish.

In Christ,

Arron Mier - State Director of Evangelization and Faith Formation



Arron Mier
Evangelization & Faith
Formation Director
kofcohioeff@gmail.com





It's Crazz Time

Earn Council Cash and Cut Your Per Capita Bill



KICKOFF FOR THE 2025 FOOTBALL SEASON IS HERE!!

**COUNCILS ELIMINATE YOUR STATE PER CAPITA TAX
AND INCREASE YOUR COUNCILS' REBATES!!!*****

**2025 Football Sweepstakes Program begins with JULY TOUR - January 4, 2026.
A 10-WEEK PROGRAM AT \$2.00 A WEEK OR \$20.00 A TICKET.**

The Ohio State Council is offering every council in Ohio an opportunity to receive 100% credit on their **2026-27 per capita tax** along with at least \$5.50 to 11.50 rebate on each ticket sold in the 2025 Ohio Knights Football Fund Crazz Sweepstakes program.

HOW? **OUR GOAL: 35,960 TICKETS!!**

If the *participating councils*, statewide, achieve sales of 35,960 Football Sweepstakes tickets, then there will be a **STATE PER CAPITA CREDIT** for all *participating councils* that reach one of their quotas **PLUS** over **\$300,000 IN REBATES**. Or councils will receive the percentage credit of the 35,960 tickets sold.

EARN A DECREASE AND/OR NO STATE PER CAPITA TAX

Councils can earn one of the following PER CAPITA REBATES by achieving one of the following quotas.

COUNCIL QUOTA IS 95% OF TOTAL MEMBERSHIP – 5/1/25

COUNCILS SELLS 150% + OF THEIR QUOTA will receive \$9.00 per ticket + 100% Credit on Per Capita
COUNCILS SELLS 100% + OF THEIR QUOTA will receive \$8.00 per ticket + 75% Credit on Per Capita
COUNCILS THAT SELL 75% OF THEIR QUOTA will receive \$7.00 per ticket + 50% Credit on Per Capita
COUNCILS THAT SELL 50% OF THEIR QUOTA will receive \$6.50 per ticket + 25% Credit on Per Capita

Councils that do not reach one of the above quotas will receive \$5.50 for each ticket sold

COUNCIL QUOTA IS 95% OF MEMBERSHIP

Councils that choose not to participate will need to pay their **FULL** State Per Capita.

**** EXTRA!!! ADDITIONAL INCENTIVES = MORE REBATES!!!**

- \$.50 - Increase in rebates on all tickets sold when your council exceeds last year sales by 5%.
- \$1.00 - Increase in rebates on all tickets sold when your council reaches the 200% level.
- \$.50 – Increase on rebates on all tickets sold when your diocese exceeds last year sales by 10%
- \$.25 - Increase in rebates on all tickets sold if 29,750 tickets are sold statewide.

Turn-In date for the entire final ten (10) weeks of games is by October 30, 2025. Late sold tickets can be turned in any time before January 4, 2026. Tickets turn in after October 30, 2025 will be good for the remaining games. Sold tickets, and money, are to be sent to: PSD Gary Eckstein, 168 Chestnut Commons Drive, Commercial Point, Oh 43116. You also may contact him at 614-679-4238 for additional tickets. Winners will be notified and paid automatically each week by the Ohio State Council. Participants must print legibly their name, address, telephone number, and name and number of the selling council, on the ticket stub. The stub, and **\$20.00**, need to be turned in to validate FBS ticket. The participant keeps the rest of the ticket. A winners' list will be posted on www.fundcrazz.com and www.kofcoho.org – Password is going to your ticket number 9-digit code on your ticket.

2025 Matching Funds Campaign

My Brother Knights,

This is a friendly reminder of the upcoming Matching Funds Campaign. Starting September 1st please send your donations and Matching Funds form to:

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

The Matching Funds campaign benefits Religious Education within your diocese. The first \$25,000 donated is matched by the Ohio Charity Foundation. For any questions email Tony at tonyoffenberger@gmail.com

Thanks and God bless you!

Tony Offenberger - State Advocate



Tony Offenberger
State Advocate
tonyoffenberger@gmail.com



New, Additional Faith in Action Programs Forthcoming!

Worthy Brother Knights of the Great State of Ohio,

I would like to thank everyone who showed up at the State Tour Meeting in each of the 6 dioceses during the 2nd and 3rd weekends of July. Every single tour stop was well attended! Thank you, brothers, for spending either your evening or afternoon with us to learn about the new general program and everything else new and exciting coming up this fraternal year.

Speaking of new and exciting, as of this writing, I just learned Supreme is rolling out 6 more new Faith in Action Programs this fraternal year! Under Faith is **¡Viva Cristo Rey!** and **Imitating Saint Juan Diego**. Under Family is **Remembering Our Faithful Departed** and **Family Support for Quinceañeras**. Under Life is **The Gospel of Life** and **Holy Hour for Life with Our Lady of Guadalupe**. Most of these programs are to attract the Hispanic Communities. Supreme will roll out these programs in a few months, so more information is coming!

By now you have heard reporting on the state website is live. When reporting your programs, remember the following. First, programs **MUST** be organized by the council or involve significant member participation. Second, donations alone only qualify if they result from a council's fundraising activity or activities or are for a Faith in Action Program activity. Third, solo standard liturgical functions do not qualify. For example, one or two members serving as ushers without council coordination.

Also, don't forget about my program incentives. For every council that completes their Form 185's, 365's, 1st Semi-Annual Audit, pays their State Per Capita, reports 4 programs in the FIA portion of the general program, brings in 2+ new members, and participates in their 1st fraternal benefits night, then that council will be entered into a drawing for a custom roll up retractable banner! 3 Councils will be drawn! The deadline to have all of these things completed is November 1, 2025. Good Luck!

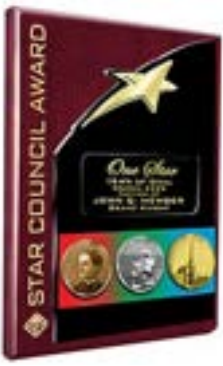
Finally, for your council to max out the general program, your council must be youth compliant. Get your **Form 365** in with your members identified who will and must do the youth protection. Those who need to be compliant are your council Grand Knight, Program Director, Community Director and Family Director. Once the program is successfully completed, each person is good for three years until a renewal is necessary. This is very important for us, as we work with families and children.

Fraternally,

Tim Mangan - State General Program Director



Tim Mangan
State General
Program Director
tjmangan@icloud.com



Star Council Award Update

As of this writing, there are 64 councils in Ohio that achieved the Star Council Award for the 2024-2025 Fraternal Year. I will eventually list them on the Star Council Status Report, as soon as the list is made available. Great job, Ohio!

The Star Council Award criteria for 2025-2026 will remain the same except for the addition of the Form 185 as a required report. If you have not submitted Form 185 and Form 365, please do so soon.

They were both due July 1.

Since the COR Meeting is an essential faith formation initiative for all councils as promoted by Supreme Council, I have added a column to the Star Council Report that will list if a council has registered an EFF Chairman.

I am pleased to announce that the Ohio State Council will again be holding a Mid-Year Star Council Award Incentive Drawing at the District Deputy Mid-Year Meeting on January 9-10, 2026, in Columbus. To qualify for this drawing, a council must accomplish the following by January 1, 2026:

- 1. Have the Form 365 and Form 185 submitted.*
- 2. Have all four council officers either “compliant” or “pending” for Safe Environment.*
- 3. Have at least 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 “We are Called” State Program Contest.*

For every 20 councils that qualify, there will be four \$100 Walmart gift cards for our drawing. Please start working on the Star Council Award NOW!

I am also pleased to announce that we will have a new award at the state convention for all grand knights whose council achieve the 2025-2026 Star Council Award by May 1, 2026. The award will be called the “Ohio Star Council Award Recognition”, or “OSCAR”. Please note that receiving this Oscar award does not mean your council will achieve the Star Council Award from Supreme as of June 30. We encourage all councils not to wait until June to complete their Star Council Award requirements. Please start working on the Star Council Award NOW!

Vivat Jesus!

Ken Girt, PSD - State Star Council Director
330-608-1729



Ken Girt, PSD
Star Council Director
girtken@sssnet.com

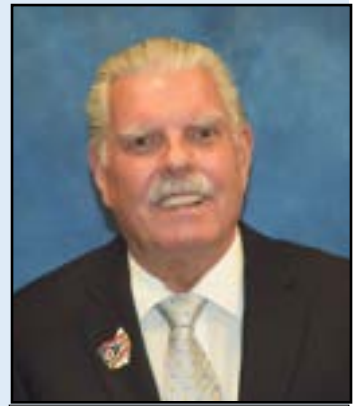


**KNIGHTS
OF COLUMBUS**

Join us!



Your Phone Camera Can Make a Great Recruiting Tool



Michael Freil
Family Director
mcfreil2019@gmail.com

Family

We are now in the middle-end of Summer. There are plenty of Family Activities that are perhaps going on in your council and your parish. It is important that your council capitalizes on these activities and records the events to your Family Program. Take pictures if it is a council family picnic, council family pool day or perhaps family activities that happen during a Vacation Bible Camp. Many parishes have a Vacation Bible Camp during summer, and I'm



pretty sure that many members of your council are assisting and participating in this event. If you do take pictures, you can perhaps include them in your parish bulletin, or even the Ohio State Council Buckeye Bulletin osckofnewsletter@gmail.com. Make sure that you include your council number, and briefly describe the event.

When you have family activities in your council, INVITE members of your parish to join your event. This will show your parish that your council has strong family values, and that the Knights of Columbus cares for and takes care of families. Additionally, by INVITING members of your parish, there's a good chance that you could recruit that parish member into joining your council.

When reporting your family program activities on the Ohio State Council website, please make sure that you report sufficient information for your activity, so that I can reward your council the points for the activity. If you do not have sufficient information, I will put it under review and send you a note back indicating what is needed. Once you send that information back, I will reward you the points.

"If you have Family Activities for your Council/Parish, they will come"

Vivat Jesus !!

Michael Freil - State Family Director

OHIO CHARITY FOUNDATION

Ohio Catholic High School Students: Does EdChoice cover *all* of your school expenses for the Year?

If not, you may be eligible for an Ohio Charity Foundation* scholarship. Visit: ohiocharityfoundation.org for eligibility requirements and fillable application forms.

Applications are available & accepted starting September 1.

*OCF is a 501c3 supported by Ohio Knights of Columbus councils.



Lend a Helping Hand to Those in Need

Community

With the tour meetings now in our rear-view mirror, it's time to put our Faith into Action within our councils. What do your councils do to serve your communities? What is your community's perception of the Knights of Columbus in your area? As Knights, we should be committed to aiding those less fortunate in our community. This is where the FIA Helping Hands community program comes into affect.

This program is designed to recognize the charitable work of our council members who provide services to those most in need. Every community in the state of Ohio has individuals struggling in one way or another. Is your community impacted by homelessness? Is your community faced with the challenges of those dealing with drug/alcohol addictions? Are there elderly people in your community who no longer feel appreciated, worthwhile, or have feelings of isolation?

Are the Domestic Violence shelters in your community overrun with men, women, and children reeling from the traumas they've encountered.



How can your council provide assistance to those in need? Over the years, we have learned that partnering with others provides positive reward for our ticket sales. Why not join forces with other service organizations in your community and strive to impact those in most need around us! Could partnering with organizations like the Elks, Moose, American Legion, VFW, Habitat for Humanity, Lions Clubs, and local food banks make a larger impact on those in need? Imagine the impact a partnership could have in a "build a bed" program.

How many people do you think could be positively impacted in an assisted living center or Senior Citizens community? How many homebound parishioners in our communities are looking for reasons to keep pushing forward?

I look forward to reading about the impacts your council makes on those less fortunate in your communities.

Matt Smith - State Community Director



Matt Smith
Community Director
matt.smith1974kofc@gmail.com

“

"I PRAY FOR THE INJURED AND FOR CHRISTIANS AROUND THE WORLD WHO CONTINUE TO SUFFER VIOLENCE AND PERSECUTION."





Created for Mission — The Catholic Man in Scripture and Tradition

Brothers,

Last month we looked in the mirror and asked the question: *Who am I?*

This month we press deeper: *Why did God make me a man?*

Scripture gives us the answer. From Adam to Abraham, from Moses to David, from Joseph to Peter — we see a line of men called, not just to live, but to lead. Called, not just to survive, but to serve. The Lord did not create men to be passive observers. He created us to protect, provide, lead, bless, and sacrifice for the sake of others. That is not toxic masculinity. That is holy masculinity.

Faith

We were made to reflect the strength and tenderness of the Father. We were made to walk in the footsteps of the Son. We were made to fight as soldiers in the Church Militant. Catholic tradition confirms what Scripture teaches: Every man has a spiritual role. Every man is called to sanctify his home, his parish, his workplace, and his world. We are priests of our domestic church. We are stewards of the faith in our families, and the Church has never needed us more.

The Church calls men to reclaim what hell has tried to bury.

To go back to the Word. Back to the Fathers. Back to the Source.

This month, dive into Scripture. Pray with the life of Joseph. Meditate on David's courage and failures. Ask God what He is saying to you through Ephesians 5:25 or 1 Kings 2:2. Read the Gospel of Luke. Lead your children in prayer. Tell your wife what God is putting on your heart. Start a journal. Share it with a brother. As Bishop Olmsted writes in *Into the Breach*, "Men, do not hesitate to engage in the battle that is raging around you."

This is where the battle starts: Identity. You are not just a nice guy.

You are a man created in the image of God.

A beloved son. A spiritual warrior, so pick up your cross.

Take up your Bible. Light a candle, and lead.

Month Two: Brotherhood and Fellowship in Christ — No Man Fights Alone

If last month was about discovering who you are, this month is about discovering *who you're walking with*, because you can't do this alone. You were never meant to.

Many men today live in quiet isolation—good men, faithful men—but spiritually and emotionally alone. The culture pushes independence, but Scripture teaches fraternity. Proverbs 27:17 says, "*Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another.*" This month, we go deeper by forging the kind of brotherhood that strengthens our walk with Christ.

Authentic Catholic manhood is not a solo project. From the beginning, God formed men to live in communion. Jesus formed His Apostles as a brotherhood. He sent them out two by two. Even the early Church grew through small communities of faith, prayer, and sacrifice, and that's why we need each other now more than ever, because the world is training us to perform, consume, isolate, and settle. The pressure, the noise, the distractions—they don't just make life busy, they make us spiritually numb. We're not up against laziness. We're up against formation in the wrong direction. Brotherhood is our response. Intentional fraternity is how we resist the current and be reminded who we are.



Chris Crum
Faith Director

chris-crum99@yahoo.com



*continued on next page

*continued from previous page

Strength in Fraternity

Brotherhood isn't just friendship—it's formation. When Catholic men gather intentionally, we become stronger husbands, fathers, and witnesses to the faith. We become men who hold each other accountable, carry each other's burdens, and celebrate each other's victories. David had Jonathan. Jesus had Peter, James, and John. St. Paul had Barnabas and Timothy. And you? You're being called into that same kind of bond.

This month, your mission is simple: build fraternity.

- **Parish Event:** Host a "Catholic Men's Fellowship Night." Gather men from surrounding parishes. Eat. Share a testimony. Watch a short clip from *Into the Breach: Brotherhood*. End the night praying for each other—rosary, St. Michael Prayer, or spontaneous intercessions.

- **Small Groups:** If you haven't already, form a small circle of 4–6 men. Meet weekly. Choose a patron saint. Share where you need support. Pray. Bond. Do something fun—go hiking, play basketball, or grill out.

Personal Engagement: Reconnect with a friend. Call someone you haven't seen in a while. Grab coffee after Mass. Tell your kids what true friendship looks like. Start building the culture you long for.

"Catholic friendship among men has a dramatic impact on their faith lives." – Bishop Olmsted

Let the men of your council and parish see that being a Knight is more than belonging—it's brotherhood in action.

No man fights alone. Not here. Not now. Not ever.

Next Month: Virtue and Vice — Forming a Holy Character

Vivat Jesus!

Chris Crum - State Faith Director



Life

Get on Board the Bus

Brothers,

A special "thank you" to all the councils that recently hosted the Silver Rose with prayer services throughout the state. We were reminded of how Our Lady of Guadalupe said, "Yes" to life and gave birth to our Lord. If your council wasn't able to host it this year, next year's scheduling should begin in January.

The Ohio March for Life will take place on Friday, October 3 in Columbus. The rally will begin at 11:00 AM and the march will start at noon. As I said on tour, plans for bus trips should have already begun. Let your DD help you get other councils involved in order to get your bus full. We want as many brother knights marching as possible! You may also consider getting another district involved and adding a second stop on the way.



Mike Incorvati
Life Director

mlbincorvati@gmail.com

keep marching in ohio



Please let me know if you are planning a bus trip. I would like to assemble a list to get out to the entire state. Please include the city and diocese that the bus is leaving from, as well as a contact person with phone # or email. Not only do I want every bus filled, but I also want to give an opportunity to those individuals looking for an easier way to get there.

Finally, if you are planning on coming, please register on the Ohio March for Life website, marchforlife.org/ohio.

Vivat Jesus,

Mike Incorvati - State Life Director

State Merchandise



Welcome Brother Knights to the Ohio Knights of Columbus State Merchandise Online Store!

Thanks in part to Mike for asking me and mrEmblem (my employer) for teaming up with Mike to make this exciting endeavor! As a Graphic Artist in retail, I am excited to be a part of the state team.

For those of you who were on the state tour a few weeks ago you were able to see the new merchandise for the next 2 years under State Deputy Mike Feler-ski. Polos, dress shirts and pins as always, and now online exclusive wind jackets, vests, and ¼ zip pullovers. All polos and dress shirts come in 8 exciting colors and the online exclusives come in 5 different colors. We also have pins and ball caps. Tall sizes available - online only!

Use the QR code attached or find the link on the Ohio Knights of Columbus page to see for yourself.



Place your order today and it will be shipped directly to your home. Please allow 3-4 weeks for delivery, and during the holidays delivery times will need to be extended.

Tax-Shipping -and Processing fees will apply to all online orders as with any online order.

If you have any ideas for apparel, you would like to see I am open to any suggestions and will be happy to talk to you. I am also always looking for ideas for State Convention Gifts for future conventions. Maybe something from the past? Or something we haven't seen before? Whatever it may be let me know and I will do some research and pricing.

Feel free to reach out to me, @ matt.stapleton76@gmail.com or art@mremblem.com with your thoughts and suggestions.

Vivat Jesus!!

Matt Stapleton - State Merchandise Coordinator



Matt Stapleton
State Merchandise
Coordinator



STATE OF OHIO APPAREL

MATT STAPLETON - STATE MERCHANDISE COORDINATOR



Polo Shirts @ \$30

Dress Shirts @ \$38

Jacket/Vest @ \$48

(\$2 more for every X above XL, Talls start @ \$2 more) 1/4 Zip Fleece @ \$68



Several colors to choose from. Promote the order today!

“We Are Called...” to serve now serve in Style!!

Scan the QR code or follow the link on the State website

www.kofcohio.org

An Offer Almost too Good to Be True!

Worthy Brother Knights of Ohio,

Well, we dove in head first this past month and launched the Coats for Kids order form throughout the entire state of Ohio! Below is the order form link!

[Order Here!](#)

Several questions have been sent to me about the BOGO promotion, Supreme Featured Program requirements, and more. I will try, in this article, to explain a couple of the most common questions to hopefully help aid you all in making this program a huge success.

BOGO Promotion: The promotion is buy one case of coats, get one case free, no matter the quantity. If you buy 50 cases, you will get 50 cases for free! Think of it this way, you will only want to order about half of what you normally order, since you will automatically get the other half for free. In the example I used, you would essentially get 100 cases for the price of 50! It's a great deal.

Supreme Featured Program: Normally, if you were to purchase the coats yourself through Supreme, you would have to buy 6 cases at full price. With the State utilizing Supreme's BOGO program, councils only need to pay for a minimum of 3 cases of coats automatically qualify for the featured program (double points).

Coats are Too Expensive: Yes, I understand that the coats can come across as a little on the pricey side. Remember, this is for a good cause, and there are plenty of fundraisers out there that can be done to help raise the funds for this program. Good 'ol pancake breakfasts are always popular. It's summer, so you can have a chicken BBQ, or even write a letter to your members requesting donations. You will be surprised that guys, who don't always show up to the meetings, may become engaged with this program.

Please remember that your **orders are due September 14, 2025**. September 15th, our proposal goes into Supreme for approval. Coats will arrive in early November, and distribution sites will be announced around September 1. Please contact me for any questions you may have! Email is the best way: gsing50@gmail.com.

Vivat Jesus!

Greg Singlar - State Coats for Kids Coordinator



Are You Prepared for Retirement?

Will you have enough income in retirement? The last thing any of us wants to worry about is running out of money to cover our needs, especially in our golden years.

An annuity from the Knights of Columbus can help give you peace of mind with a guaranteed income stream.

How does it work? Simply put, an annuity is a retirement savings product. You make contributions, and, after a specified amount of time, the annuity pays you regular income.

Unlike other ways you may be saving for retirement, annuities remain stable during volatile market conditions. In fact, each Knights of Columbus annuity comes with a guaranteed minimum interest rate. No matter the market fluctuations, your annuity is guaranteed to never earn less than the contractually stated amount, on an annual basis.



Jason Staas
Insurance Liaison
Jason.Staas@kofc.org



**Knights of
Columbus**
Asset Advisors®

As you prepare for retirement, you can also consider the tax advantages, income flexibility, and estate planning benefits that permanent life insurance offers. It's a potentially valuable, and often underutilized, tool for families when it comes to preparing for retirement.

You're hopefully maximizing your contributions to savings plans like a 401(k) at work or Individual Retirement Account (IRA). What about other investment options that take your targeted retirement date and risk threshold into account? Knights of Columbus Asset Advisors, a wholly owned subsidiary of Knights of Columbus, has resources to help you understand your options. If you need assistance, I'm happy to connect you with a registered advisor.

Let's look at your finances together to see what plans you already have in place, and what gaps you may have to ensure you don't run out of income in retirement. Safeguard your future today — set up time to meet with me in the coming weeks!

Thank you!

Jason Staas - State Insurance Liaison

Post Script: You can visit KofC.org and KoCAA.org for detailed information on what each of KofC and KoCAA can offer members directly



Jason C. Staas
Financial Advisor
Staas Agency
0: 800-484-0304
<https://info.kofcassetadvisors.org/Meet-Jason-Staas.html>

Catholic Investing



Let your faith guide
your financial decisions

LEARN MORE >

Notable Council Anniversaries



Cincinnati Archdiocese

District #6

Archbishop McNicholas

Council 3344

75th Anniversary

District #9

Fr. Donoghue

Council 3369

75th Anniversary

Toledo Diocese

District #62

St. Joseph

Council 2584

100th Anniversary

District #64

Sandusky

Council 546

125th Anniversary



Cleveland Diocese

District #30

Akron

Council 547

125th Anniversary

Youngstown Diocese

District #81

Bishop Malone

Council 12756

25th Anniversary



Columbus Diocese

District #35

Fr. Fitzgerald

Council 12772

25th Anniversary



Beth and Mark Siracusa visited the Heartbeat of Toledo on June 30th for a check presentation from the Ohio State Council to use towards boutique items for their families!

These funds were generated by raffle baskets so beautifully created by the wives of State Council members.

Around the Buckeye State



On the Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, St. Peter St. Joan of Arc had a bilingual Mass celebrated by pastor, Fr. David Schalk, followed by a bilingual Holy Hour. After the Holy Hour, attendees enjoyed a reception with sandwiches, etc. This event was hosted by **St. Joan of Arc Council 10765, St. Peter Council 11216, and San Pedro Consejo 18195.**



Lafayette Council 3970 of Independence, held a fundraiser for Zelig's Home during Mother's Day weekend at St. Michael Parish. Zelig's Home empowers pregnant and parenting women by offering physical, emotional, spiritual, and professional support as they build better futures for themselves and their children in Northeast Ohio. Thanks to our chaplain and pastor, Fr. Matt Jordan, and the incredible generosity of parishioners, we surpassed last year's total. With matching ASAP funds, the donation came to **\$10,600**. FS George Schimek (photographer), Treasurer Jack Wolf (left), and GK Randy Katona (right) presented the monies to Zelig's Home Executive Director Erin Hathaway.



Fairborn Council 3724 held its annual Knight of the Year banquet where guests were treated to a wonderful catered dinner and several awards were presented. In addition to Religious, Family and Youth of the Year, the council was proud to present the Knight of the Year Award to Brother Robert Hernandez. Brother Rob is engaged in all council activities, the Hispanic Council Development Coordinator for the State of Ohio, K of C Field Agent and for the 4th year in a row the State top FA membership recruiter. Congratulations to Brother Rob!!

Around the Buckeye State



Seven Dominican Friars of the Province of St. Joseph were ordained to the priesthood on June 5th at the Basilica of the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC. All seven are members of **Archbishop Elder Council #1195** and **Precious Blood Assembly #2947** in Cincinnati and were initiated into the Knights of Columbus during their novitiate year at St. Gertrude in 2019. Pictured with the Most Reverend Anthony Fisher, O.P., Archbishop of Sydney, Australia are Fr. Bertrand Hebert, O.P., Fr. Nicodemus Thomas, O.P., Fr. Linus Martz, O.P., Fr. Gregory Santy, O.P., Fr. Titus Sanchez, O.P., Fr. Basil Burroughs, O.P., and Fr. Louis Bethea, O.P.



Around the Buckeye State



On Friday July 11, **Athens Council 1716** hosted local veterans under the care of Monica Silverthorn at the VFW in The Plains, Ohio. The Knights grilled hamburgers and hot dogs and served cake and ice cream made on site by Chancellor and Program Director, Jeff Niese and his son Cameron Niese, using their homemade John Deere ice cream maker. Retired priest of the Diocese of Steubenville, Fr. Don Horak, opened the event with a prayer for our armed forces. VA Representative from Ohio District Three Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus, Rick Diso, brought gift cards for every veteran at the event. The Athens Knights host this group of veterans quarterly and the picnic in the park has been an annual event for the past four years.



It was a family affair at **Joseph Cardinal Bernardin Council #12359** on July 15th! 18-year-old Justin Dettmer joined his father Dave (9 years) and his grandfather Roger (62 years) as members of the council. Attending the CUF ceremony was his mom Kim and his sister Hannah. Congrats to the Dettmer family



Deputy Grand Knight Rick Almsy (left) and Council Hispanic Liaison, Marco Lopez-Velazquez, led a bilingual service for the Sacred Heart icon at **Holy Martyrs Council 4733** at St. Anthony Church in Canton.

Around the Buckeye State



On Saturday, July 19th, **St. Jude Council 3904** held an Ice Cream social for the parishioners of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Toledo. The council had a variety of toppings available and fun was had by all attendees.



Each year, **Archbishop Elder Council #1195** in Cincinnati prepares a grilled chicken dinner with sides, salad, and dessert for the ~20 Dominican Friars and Novice Brothers stationed at St. Gertrude Parish in Madeira. The event is fondly referred to as "Feed the Dominicans"! Knights slave over hot coals prepping, basting, flipping, and grilling the chicken using a time-honored recipe that a council member brought with him from upstate New York. Council members pictured are (L to R): Jim Hook, GK Bill Shefcik, PGK Tom Hahn, PGK Phil Motz, FS (and Chef) John Mullan and his wife Sue, PGK Pete Marcello, Joe Sharpshair, and Kevin Baker.



Immediate Past State Deputy, Jeff Kiliany, presented outgoing State Chaplain, Fr. James Lang, with a plaque of appreciation for his 2 years of service.

Around the Buckeye State



This monument to the unborn was dedicated in June 30 of 1996. The statue had been painted once or twice, however, but the last few years the weather has taken a toll, not only on the statue, but on the altar base itself. The signs and plates from the donors and the project had fallen off. Brother Knights got together and repainted the statue, repainted the altar, and put the signs back where they belonged. **Marian Council 3813, Girard Council 2935, and Saint Joseph Council 13977** took part in restoring the monument with brother knights Don Carney, Tom Gaul, Ray Zornjak, Bob Pesa, Chris Conway, and Joe Mackos putting in the work.



Knights of Columbus **Council #1641 in Cambridge** hosted the State Council on their 2025 State Tour Stop in the Diocese of Steubenville. Father Dan Huesel and newly ordained Deacon Ryan Budd led a Silver Rose prayer service to open the evening. That service was followed by a chicken dinner served by the Cambridge Council and the fraternal year kick-off meeting for the Knights of Columbus from the Diocese of Steubenville. Checks were awarded to Ryan Budd for our seminarians and Jeff Niese, President of St. Isidore Media company, for Athens Catholic Radio Station 106.7.