

“We Are Called”

State Program Awards

2025-2026

May 23, 2026

127th Annual Ohio State Convention
Hilton Columbus at Easton
3900 Chagrin Dr, Columbus, OH 43219

State Honorees of the Year

Deacon Mark Danis, Religious of the Year

Nominated By: Fr. Alphonse Schumacher Council 1801

I selected Deacon Mark Danis as the Ohio State Chaplain of the Year because, the more I examined the submissions, the more convinced I became that he was simply not doing many good things, he was doing the kind of things that actually move people. That mattered. I was not looking only for a man who was faithful, busy, or well liked. I was looking for a man whose ministry, in this fraternal year, clearly helped draw councils, parishioners, and families into deeper prayer, stronger devotion, greater unity, and more intentional Catholic life. In Deacon Danis, I saw that. His nomination shows a man who led prayer services, coordinated the Sacred Heart Icon across parishes, established prayer chapels, supported sacramental life, and provided guidance and mentorship to councils across District 5. This was not passive support. This was active spiritual leadership.

What especially separated him from me was that he did not merely participate in devotional life, he helped create the conditions for it to flourish. The clearest example of that was his leadership in helping establish and sustain Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration at St. Dominic's Chapel, described in the nomination as the first such opportunity in the Dayton area. He did not just endorse the idea. He helped build the vision, communicated with hundreds of parishioners, organized sign-ups, coordinated time slots, and encouraged the participation needed to make it real and keep it staffed. That is exactly the kind of thing looking for, an activator. He took something that had been discussed, and he helped make it happen in a way that increased reverence, deepened Eucharistic devotion, and drew people into ongoing prayer.

I also kept coming back to the breadth of his influence. His nomination did not describe a man working in one narrow lane. It described a deacon serving a six-church family of parishes, helping guide people through the Beacons of Light transition, coordinating volunteers, strengthening parish structures, leading retreats and reflections, supporting Faith in Action efforts, and fostering unity across parish communities during a time when fragmentation would have been the easier outcome. That mattered because this award should not go merely to a man who is admirable in private. It should go to a man whose ministry is visibly bearing fruit in the life of the Church and the Order. Again and again, Deacon Danis's year pointed not just to effort, but to multiplication.

The other reason I ultimately landed here is that his ministry reflects what the diaconate is supposed to be: service in word, liturgy, and charity that is humble, concrete, and fruitful. His nomination shows him preaching, leading prayer, supporting liturgical life, organizing people, and helping men and families encounter Christ more deeply. And importantly, it shows him doing so in a way marked by humility rather than self-promotion. The strongest candidates in a field like this are not always the men with the grandest titles or the longest résumés. Often, they are the men who quietly become indispensable because wherever they are, prayer

deepens, reverence grows, people come together, and the Church becomes more alive. That is how Deacon Danis came across me.

So, in the end, I selected Deacon Mark Danis because I believe this recognition should honor more than goodness. It should honor catalyst spiritual fatherhood. It should honor the man who, in the course of this year, most clearly helped move others toward Christ. In my judgment, Deacon Danis did exactly that. He did not simply serve well. He strengthened devotion, built unity, activated councils, and helped create lasting opportunities for deeper faith. That is why I chose him as the Ohio State Chaplain of the Year.

David and Kim Krebs Family, Family of the Year

Nominated By: River East Mother Teresa Council 14344

The 2026 Family of the Year goes to David, Kim, & Paige Krebs. David has been a member of River East Mother Teresa Council 14344 for one year. The Krebs family belongs to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church in Martin Ohio. They are involved in many Parish activities including the Parish's first Saturday of the month adoration and mass, and the parish's biggest fundraiser, the Bono Fest Drive Thru Chicken Dinner. All of the Krebs's were involved in the drive thru line getting the orders and handing them out. At OLMC the Krebs's family is involved in many ministries. Kim is the Parish Manager, Eucharistic Minister and Usher, David is Lector and Usher. Paige is a special master of ceremonies Server for special masses. Paige is also involved in the Lifeteen as an adult moderator at St. Ignatius Parish. Lifeteen is their Version of Youth Group.

Kim has been Parish Manager since 2024. Kim does a great job as she organizes all the parish functions, does the Liturgical Schedule and is at every single event getting involved in whatever needs to be done.

One of David's first activities as a Knight occurred this past summer when the OLMC Parish held their first ever Parish Picnic. Knights were asked to help grilling hamburgers along with the District Deputy and Parish Priest. The Krebs's also helped at the OLMC Euchre Tournament in Feb 2026, helping cook food and serving meals to Parishioners. Kim was also involved in the Parish Rummage sale organizing and making sure all came together so that things ran smoothly. David is also a Marine Corp veteran, serving as Chief of Staff for the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing in Japan and as Director of Expeditionary Warfare. David is also a highly skilled Aviator and Instructor Pilot. The Krebs's are involved in activities at both Our Lady of Mt. Carmel and St. Ignatius Parishes. While Kim & Paige were helping serve meals at a Euchre Party, their kindness was responsible for a man joining the Knights of Columbus that evening.

It is with great honor and pleasure that the Ohio State Council Knights of Columbus have named the David and Kim Krebs Family from Council 14344 as the Family of the Year 2026 in the "We Are Called" State Program. Congratulations!!

David Tortorete, Knight of the Year

Nominated By: Fr. Maruskin Council 10936

David Tortorete, Deputy Grand Knight of Fr. Maruskin Council #10936, has an interesting background of active involvement at both Saint Mary Parish in Hudson and Holy Family Parish in Stow. David and his wife Kelli were actively engaged in the Life Teen Program at Saint Mary when their three daughters were teenagers. Today, David and Kelli are very active in the lives of their grandchildren, including witnessing their sacramental lives. David and Kelli were charter members of the "Walking with Moms in Need" ministry at Holy Family, consistent with their long commitment to life. David proposed a billboard campaign to market the ministry's purpose which is now being activated. They are also regular adorers in the Perpetual Adoration Chapel at Holy Family and part of the relatively new organization, the Holy Family Ministry of Married Couples.

Prayer fellowship with other men has always resonated with David. His long-time participation in "The Kings Men" at Saint Mary Parish and multiple years of the Exodus 90 program at Holy Family led to him joining the Knights of Columbus in 2020. For many years, David has organized Saturday morning walks for men of Holy Family and Saint Mary Parishes that combine exercise, fellowship and prayers.

David's style of quiet leadership has enabled him to become a significant contributor in a short period of time. One of his first projects was helping and organizing the adoption of the "Into the Breach (ITB)" video program. The ITB programs eventually led David to help launch and participate in Cor gatherings for Holy Family men. The Cor Kick-Off Cook-Out in November 2025 that David co-hosted drew around four dozen men. Cor gatherings are now regularly held at Holy Family Parish, twice per month. David also leads and organizes the Knights monthly rosary prayer session before Mass at Holy Family. He has participated in Holy Family's 2025 Eucharistic Procession on the Solemnity of Corpus Christi through Stow neighborhood, the Knight's Pilgrim Icon of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. David also led the Knight's involvement in helping to fund a new portable statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary at Holy Family. David, being encouraged by his wife Kelli, started

leading the Fish Fry volunteers in prayer before hundreds of dinners are served to the community. This simple, short, and important activity relieves tension and stress among the volunteers and leads to more fruitful Fish Fry events.

David is a successful executive with several decades of experience in healthcare and life sciences. David contributes to the world's largest health community by enabling life sciences companies to connect with patients directly, facilitating real-world evidence generation and faster patient recruitment. His expertise lies in patient engagement and healthcare IT, where he is committed to fostering collaboration and delivering solutions that address critical industry challenges. This background drove David to be strongly involved in the council's financial contribution to the purchase of two ultrasound machines. He was instrumental in the efforts to campaign for and to eventually install two Safe Haven Baby Boxes in Summit County. The first at Fire Station #2 by the City of Stow and the second will soon open in Springfield Township.

It is with great honor and pleasure that the Ohio State Council Knights of Columbus has named David Tortorete from Fr. Maruskin Council #10936 as Knight of the Year for 2026 in the "We Are Called" State Program. Congratulations!

Gabe Memering, Youth of the Year

Nominated By: Fr. Alphonse Schumacher Council 1801

The Ohio Knights of Columbus Youth of the Year award recognizes outstanding young individuals whose actions embody the values of faith, leadership, service, and community involvement. This year, Gabe Memering stands as a shining example of these ideals, demonstrating a remarkable dedication to his church, school, and community. Gabe's multifaceted contributions reflect his passion for service, his pursuit of excellence, and his commitment to making a positive impact in the world.

Gabe's deep-rooted faith is evident in his active participation at St. Brigid Parish. As an altar server, Gabe faithfully assists at Mass, helping to create a reverent atmosphere for worship. His involvement extends beyond regular church services, as he volunteers at the annual St. Brigid Parish Festival, contributing to the vibrant spirit of fellowship and community. Gabe also plays a key role in Fellowship Sunday, fostering connections among parishioners and nurturing a welcoming environment for all.

Gabe's commitment to the Knights of Columbus is exemplary. He volunteers for Measure Up Collections, supporting efforts to raise funds for individuals with developmental disabilities. At Council Fish Fries, Gabe works alongside members to serve meals and build camaraderie within the parish. His service to the widows of Knights is especially heartfelt, as he delivers Christmas poinsettias, offering comfort and joy during the holiday season.

Beyond his local parish, Gabe was selected to attend the National Catholic Youth Conference, representing his community among thousands of young Catholics nationwide. He also attended Damascus Catholic summer youth camps, where he served as an altar server, deepening his spiritual journey and inspiring others through his example.

Gabe actively participates in Knights of Columbus-sponsored athletic events, including soccer and Free-Throw Challenges, showcasing his sportsmanship and dedication to physical fitness as integral parts of his holistic development.

Gabe's commitment to academic achievement is outstanding. Since 2023, he has consistently earned a place on the Honor Roll, maintaining an impressive 4.35 GPA. His pursuit of excellence is further recognized by his membership in the National Honor Society, where he upholds academic integrity and serves as a role model for his peers.

Gabe generously shares his knowledge as a tutor, supporting fellow students in their academic endeavors. As a Patriot Shadow Guide for 8th grade students, he helps younger students navigate the transition to high school, fostering a sense of community and mentorship.

In athletics, Gabe demonstrates leadership and teamwork. He is a member of the Varsity Volleyball, Basketball, and Soccer teams. His role as Varsity Soccer Team Captain and Spiritual Team Captain is particularly noteworthy, as he not only leads on the field but also encourages his teammates in faith and character. Gabe was instrumental in establishing the team Chaplain position for soccer, affirming the importance of spiritual guidance in athletics.

Gabe's dedication has been recognized through numerous awards and scholarships. He received the St. Brigid Mother Seton Award and the St. Brigid David Mark Austria Scholarship, honoring his service and leadership within the parish. The Knights of Columbus Ohio Charity's Foundation Scholarship further acknowledges his commitment to faith-based service.

In athletics, Gabe has achieved 1st team honors in the Greater Catholic League Soccer, All Miami Valley 1st team honors, Division III All Ohio Honors, and Player of the Year honors in the All Miami Valley. His exceptional skill and leadership have

garnered recognition by United Soccer Coaches in the All Great Lakes Region, underscoring his impact as both a player and a leader.

Gabe's service extends far beyond the boundaries of his parish and school. He works at the Greene County Fair Gates, engaging with the broader community. He participates in the Austria Golf Outing, furthering charitable initiatives. As a member of the Galaxies FC Elite soccer team, he continues to pursue athletic excellence.

Gabe's commitment to life and dignity is evident in his participation in the Annual Life Chain, advocating for the sanctity of life. He volunteers as a student coach for youth soccer and basketball, inspiring younger athletes and sharing his knowledge. Gabe assists with Dayton's top soccer programs for special needs youth and adults and Carroll PATS Camps, demonstrating compassion and inclusivity.

His involvement in the Dayton Clean Up Project shows his dedication to environmental stewardship. Gabe is a licensed FIFA soccer referee, exemplifying his expertise and commitment to the sport. Since 2022, he owned and operated a lawn service business, displaying entrepreneurial spirit and responsibility.

Gabe Memering's remarkable achievements and unwavering dedication to faith, service, and leadership make him a deserving recipient of the Ohio Knights of Columbus Youth of the Year award. Gabe is destined to make a positive impact in this world, inspiring others to follow in his footsteps and embody the values that define true Catholic leadership. Through his church, school, athletics, and community service, Gabe demonstrates the transformative power of faith in action, setting a standard for excellence and compassion for all.

State Activities of the Year

State Best Faith Activity

“Stations of the Cross Dedication/Cookout”

Maria-Joseph Council 4022

Our Council 4022 recently completed an Outdoor Stations of the Cross, and we held a Dedication/Cookout to announce and celebrate this display.

"At least 10 of our Council 4022 Knights were present as we hosted a dedication of our outdoor Stations of the Cross display behind the Spirit Center at St Albert's (part of the Mother of God Family of Parishes). This was a project that was being worked on for quite some time by our council. The solid oak wood for the crosses in the display came from Saint Meinrad Abbey Caskets company in Indiana. One of our Knights (Forst Elliott) travelled 5 hours each way to pick up these crosses. Forst also took a main role in driving the Stations of the Cross project with some assisting contractors. Another of our Knights (Bob Burns) did the design and drawings for the project, constructed wooden markers to put on each cross, and also constructed a Dedication plaque which is on display leading into the Stations of the Cross area. Several other Knights helped with fastening the markers to the crosses and sprucing up the area.

A press release and several pictures of the display and ceremony were sent out to the Catholic Telegraph, Columbia Magazine, and local papers. The Catholic Telegraph contact told us that this looks to be a good piece for their online newsletter. I have attached a file containing the press release that was sent out. The press release contains many more details about the project and the Dedication/Cookout. I have also emailed several photos of the event and our display to Chris Crum (as only one file attachment was allowed with this program submission). Let me know if you have any other questions about the project."

I selected Council 4022's Stations of the Cross Dedication/Cookout as the Ohio State winner because it represented the most extraordinary example of a council going above and beyond to create something lasting for the spiritual life of the parish.

What set this activity apart for me was that it was not simply a well-run event, and it was not just a council participating in something already established. This was clearly a council-instigated, council-built, council-completed project. The council did not merely attend, assist, or support. They planned, designed, transported, built, installed, and followed through. That level of ownership matters.

I also chose it because this was not just another repeatable program on the calendar. This was the creation and dedication of a "permanent devotional asset", something that can continue drawing people into prayer long after this fraternal year ends. That

became an important distinction for me. Many activities in the field were strong, creative, and spiritually fruitful, but they were still events that can be repeated year after year. This project was different. It required a unique level of labor, craftsmanship, planning, and sacrifice to bring to fruition, and once completed, it now stands as an enduring path for meditation, prayer, and encounter with Christ.

Another reason it rose to the top is that it reflects a kind of excellence that is honored at the state level: not only the ability to gather people for a moment, but the willingness to build something that will continue to serve the Church. In this case, the council's work gave the parish a lasting setting for one of the Church's most powerful devotions. That tells me this was not only above and beyond in effort, but above and beyond in vision.

I also appreciate that this activity brought together many of the things the Church wants to see in our councils: fraternity, sacrifice, practical skill, commitment over time, and unmistakably Catholic purpose. It was not flashy for the sake of attention. It was substantial. It was reverent. It was built through real work. And it will continue to bear fruit.

That is why I selected Council 4022 as the Ohio State Faith Activity of the Year. It was the strongest example of a council not just hosting a faith activity, but creating something lasting, prayerful, and deeply Catholic that will continue to shape lives well beyond this year.

State Best Family Activity

“Food for Families Program”

Fr. Andrew Kunkler Council 2158

During the 2025-2026 Fraternal Year, Council 2158 Father Andrew Kunkler expanded their charitable volunteer activities by supporting over 60 Food Pantries in Ohio and Kentucky. How they do this is by butchering over 500 Cows and Hogs and distributing the meats to the Food pantries. Some of the Council Knights butcher the Cows and Hogs at a local area butchering facility. At the time they submitted their report (in December 2025) there were 8 Cows and 1 Hog ready to be butchered to be donated to food pantries

Seven to Ten Knights each week help with the butchering, in total there are about 50 people helping in the process. Each week people bring food and make hamburgers and sausages. The Knights and family members present Pray before each meal and Pray for those who are sick or have passed away.

The estimated retail price for butchered meats that are donated is more than one million dollars. These donated meats are helping numerous Pantries and Families that need food in the Ohio and Kentucky area.

With the butchering and the processing of the meats the Council Members feel like it is one big family working, eating and praying together. Usually after the butchering and processing is done many families stay around socializing and pray together.

The Father Andrew Kunkler Council held a Christmas party and over one hundred people attended their Christmas party. Congratulations to Council 2158 for their Food for Families Program being selected as the Best Family Program Activity of the Year at the 2026 Ohio State Convention!!!

State Best Community Activity

“Rise Against Hunger”

Madonna Council 3891

Madonna Council 3891 proudly hosted the 11th Annual Thelma J. Kaup Memorial Rise Against Hunger Meal Packaging event at the Assumption Parish Center. This remarkable gathering brought together approximately 100 volunteers, spanning ages from as young as 4 to as seasoned as 90 years old, in a shared mission to fight hunger and serve the homeless across the Greater Cincinnati Area.

The annual meal packaging event stands as a tribute to Thelma J. Kaup, whose unwavering commitment to community service and compassion continues to inspire generations. By naming the event in her honor, Madonna Council 3891 reinforces her legacy and encourages others to follow in her footsteps, emphasizing the importance of collective action in addressing critical social issues such as hunger and homelessness.

The event showcased the extraordinary power of community involvement. Volunteers of all ages, from children to seniors, dedicated four hours to meticulously package meals. The diversity among participants highlighted the inclusivity and

universal appeal of this cause. Families, friends, and neighbors worked side by side, demonstrating that age is no barrier when it comes to making a meaningful difference.

Participants were divided into organized teams, each assigned specific roles such as measuring, filling, sealing, and boxing the meal packages. The collaborative spirit was palpable, as even the youngest volunteers contributed enthusiastically, learning valuable lessons about empathy and teamwork. For many, the event was not only a chance to give back but also an opportunity to bond and foster intergenerational connections within the community.

In just four hours, the collective efforts of the volunteers resulted in the packaging of over 27,000 meals. These nutritious meals were distributed to the homeless population throughout the Greater Cincinnati Area, providing much-needed sustenance and hope to those facing food insecurity. The scale of this accomplishment underscores the effectiveness of coordinated volunteerism and the potential for small acts of kindness to create significant change.

The meals packaged at the event are carefully formulated to address nutritional needs, ensuring recipients receive balanced and healthy options. Rise Against Hunger, the partnering organization, has a proven track record in food distribution, and Madonna Council 3891's continued collaboration with them amplifies the impact of local efforts.

Channel 9 News attended the event, documenting the activities and interviewing participants. Their coverage aired twice, bringing heightened visibility to the cause and inspiring others in the region to participate in similar initiatives. The media presence not only celebrated the volunteers' achievements but also underscored the importance of addressing hunger within the community. By sharing stories of compassion and unity, Channel 9 News played a crucial role in raising public awareness and encouraging future participation.

As Madonna Council 3891 reflects on another successful year, plans are already underway to continue and expand the event's reach. The council remains committed to fostering a culture of service and compassion, inviting new volunteers and strengthening community partnerships. The annual meal packaging event serves as a beacon of hope, reminding everyone that together, we can make a tangible difference in the lives of those in need.

In summary, the 11th Annual Thelma J. Kaup Memorial Rise Against Hunger Meal Packaging event is a testament to the enduring spirit of community, generosity, and service. With over 27,000 meals packaged and countless lives touched, Madonna Council 3891 continues to lead by example, inspiring others to join in the fight against hunger around the Great State of Ohio.

State Best Life Activity

“Polar Bear Plunge”

Fr. Frank Patala Council 1716

The Knights of Columbus Fr. Frank Patala Council #1716 in collaboration with Ohio University Catholic students, participated in the 8th Annual Polar Bear Plunge held on February 21, 2026, at Lake Snowden in Albany, Ohio. This annual community event raises funds and awareness for students with developmental disabilities at Beacon School, drawing hundreds of participants willing to brave icy waters for a meaningful cause.

In support of this effort, the Knights donated \$300 to sponsor a team of 10 participants made up of Knights and OU Catholic students. Together, they entered the freezing lake, often requiring ice to be cut beforehand, demonstrating both courage and a strong commitment to charitable service. This program reflected the council's dedication to the Corporal Works of Mercy by caring for vulnerable populations and witnessing faith through visible acts of charity. The shared experience strengthened fraternity among members while also fostering engagement and mentorship with young adults in the university Catholic community.

Additionally, the Knights' involvement helped raise awareness of their mission within the broader community and contributed to funding resources and support services that directly benefit Beacon School students. Moving forward, the council hopes to expand participation, increase fundraising contributions, and continue building relationships with campus ministry and local organizations through this impactful annual event.

Kirwin Award Winner

State Top Insurance Award

Peter Holm

Peter Holm has achieved a remarkable four-time Kirwin Award win. Since joining as a Field Agent, he earned the Home Office Rookie of the Year Award, qualified for the Million Dollar Round Table (MDRT) three times, and became the first Knights Agent in Ohio history to attain MDRT "Top of the Table" status. Recently, Peter was promoted to be the third Assistant General Agent in the Staas Agency and was a Top 10 agent for the entire Order as a Supreme Knights's Club Elite member in 2024. Before his financial services career, he worked in defense intelligence and felt a profound calling to serve Catholic families, leading him to the Knights. Peter exemplifies Blessed Michael McGivney's vision for the Order, and we are grateful for his service in the Ohio jurisdiction.

District Deputy of the Year

Jeremy Begines, DD #05

It is with great pride that we nominate Jeremy Begines for the Ohio District Deputy of the Year. As the "representative of the Supreme Knight and the State Deputy," Jeremy has demonstrated the exceptional leadership and zeal outlined in the District Deputy Guidebook. Overseeing the councils at Holy Family Parish and the four councils within the St. Michael the Archangel Family of Parishes, he has served as a pivotal mentor and motivator for the men of District #5.

Jeremy's tenure has been defined by a relentless focus on council health and the professionalization of fraternal operations. By proactively implementing the Brandon Chambers Process across all five of his councils, he has established a clear, structured roadmap for sustainable growth and member engagement. Furthermore, his commitment to the Order's mission of financial security is evidenced by his coordination of multiple Fraternal Benefit Seminars, ensuring that his brother Knights and their families are informed and protected.

Commitment to Faith in Action

Jeremy's leadership is a living testament to the Faith in Action program model. He successfully guided his Grand Knights to move beyond administrative tasks toward impactful, prayerful service.

Spiritual Devotion: Under his guidance, the district served as a spiritual hub for the community by hosting the Traveling Icon and the Silver Rose prayer services. These programs fostered a deep sense of unity across the district's multiple parishes, promoting a culture of life and a profound devotion to the Blessed Mother.

Mission-Driven Programming: Jeremy has ensured that each council is actively engaged in the four pillars of Faith, Family, Community, and Life, grounding their charitable work in the core principles of our Order.

The Path to Star District

The District Deputy Manual identifies the Star District award as the ultimate mark of a Deputy's success in membership, insurance, and programming. Through Jeremy's hands-on mentorship and tireless work ethic, all five councils in District #5 are currently on track to achieve Star Council status. This unprecedented trajectory has put Jeremy himself on the way to earning Star District honors. This achievement represents more than just meeting quotas; it reflects a revitalized district where every council is thriving, every parish is supported, and every Knight is empowered to lead. Jeremy's ability to inspire his officers to reach their full potential makes him a truly exemplary candidate for the Ohio District Deputy of the Year.

District Deputy Coordinator of the Year

Thomas Hahn, Cincinnati Diocese

Thomas Hahn has demonstrated visionary leadership within the Diocese of Cincinnati, fostering a culture of fraternal excellence that has set a benchmark for the entire state. Under his guidance, the diocese has reached an impressive 80.7% of its total membership quota, successfully bringing 368 new members into the Order year-to-date. His commitment to the Faith in Action model is evidenced by the remarkable achievement of six confirmed Star Councils and a robust pipeline of fourteen high-potential councils that currently meet the elite benchmarks for award eligibility.

The recruitment success under Hahn's tenure is further highlighted by the nine councils that have already met or exceeded their annual membership goals. The top five performing councils in the diocese have delivered a powerful combined recruitment performance of 729.47% of their quotas, led by Council #1195 at 233.33%, Council #14834 at 200%, Council #5128 at 157.14%, Council #12359 at 130%, and Council #3324 at 109%. These figures reflect a vibrant, growing diocese where the principles of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity are being shared with a new generation of Knights.

OSCAR Award Winners

Youngstown	Massillon Council 554	Bryan Stewart, Grand Knight
Columbus	Newark Council 721	Edward Gebhart, Grand Knight
Cincinnati	Archbishop Elder Council 1195	William Shefcik, Grand Knight
Cincinnati	Fort Recovery Council 3324	Calvin May, Grand Knight
Cincinnati	Fairborn Council 3724	Thomas Pitstick, Grand Knight
Cincinnati	Fr William O'Connor Council 3730	Robert Howard, Grand Knight
Cleveland	Lafayette Council 3970	Michael Grzincic, Grand Knight
Youngstown	Msgr. Anthony P Boeff Council 5582	Aaron Shiplett, Grand Knight
Cincinnati	AJ Schulte Council 6144	Matthew Prenatt, Grand Knight
Columbus	Fr. Bill Johnson Council 11665	David Shallenberger, Grand Knight
Cincinnati	Joseph Cardinal Berardin Council 12359	Frank Simms, Grand Knight
Toledo	River East-Mother Teresa Council 14344	Eric Loprete, Grand Knight
Cincinnati	St. Dominic-Delhi Council 15533	Paul Brackmann, Grand Knight

Top Councils in Ohio

- #1 Archbishop Elder Council 1195
- #2 Msgr. Anthony P Boeff Council 5582
- #3 Fr. Bill Johnson Council 11665
- #4 Father Maruskin Council 10936
- #5 Joseph Cardinal Bernardin Council 12359
- #6 Sandusky Council 546
- #7 St Brendan Council 11208
- #8 St Dominic-Delhi 15533
- #9 Fr William O'Connor Council 3730
- #10 St James Council 2299

State, Div, Diocese	Name	Nominating Council
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Diocesan Youth of the Year

Cincinnati	Gabriel Memering	Fr Alphonse Schumacher Council 1801
Cleveland	Avery Jurcsis	Brook Park Council 13984
Columbus	Zachary Utt	Delaware Council 1056
Steubenville	Annamarie Montle	Fr. Frank Patala Council 1716
Toledo	Katherine Myers	St Joseph Maumee Council 11370
Youngstown	Christopher Hammond	St Jude Council 10183

Diocesan Chaplain/Religious of the Year

Cincinnati	Deacon Mark Danis	Fr. Alphonse Schumacher Council 1801
Cleveland	Deacon Larry Somrack	Geauga Council 3304
Columbus	Deacon Matt Shaw	St James Council 2299
Steubenville	Fr. Dan Heusel	Bellaire Council 1246
Toledo	Deacon Tom Wray	Perrysburg Council 7978
Youngstown	Deacon Chris Germak	Holy Martyrs Council 4733

Diocesan Family of the Year

Cincinnati	Russell and Annie Millron Family	Fairborn Council 3724
Cleveland	Patrick and Susie McCarthy Family	Our Lady of Charity Council 14406
Columbus	Michael and Michelle Yost Family	St. Elizabeth Seton Council 11187
Steubenville	John and Jennifer Fabian Family	Mingo Junction Council 4361
Toledo	Dave and Kim Krebs Family	River East- Mother Teresa Council 14344
Youngstown	Karl and Kim Musille Family	Canton Council 341

Diocesan Knight of the Year

Cincinnati	Frank Carchedi	Fairborn Council 3724
Cleveland	David Tortorete	Fr. Maruskin Council 10936
Columbus	Dave Breitmayer	Fr. Bill Johnson Council 11665
Steubenville	Steve Neuser	Fr. Frank Patala Council 1716
Toledo	Ed Fiscus	St. Joseph Council 11370
Youngstown	Matthew Hynes	Msgr. Mears Council 3930

We Are Called! Award (by Division)

Division 1	Archbishop Elder	Council 1195
Division 2	Rt Rev MSGR Anthony P Boeff	Council 5582
Division 3	St James	Council 2299
Division 4	St Dominic-Delhi	Council 15533
Division 5	Father Joseph Lutmer	Council 17092

1st Half District Deputy Award

Diocese	Name	District
Cincinnati Diocese	Jeremy Begines-Winner	District 05
Cleveland Diocese	Ron Snyder	District 26
Columbus Diocese	Michael Davala	District 35
Steubenville Diocese	Bryan Hayes	District 54
Toledo Diocese	Jerry Gostnell	District 69
Youngstown Diocese	Raymond Zornjak	District 83

2nd Half District Deputy Award

Diocese	Name	District
Cincinnati Diocese	Nicholas Kiel	District 01
Cleveland Diocese	Michael Rauh	District 25
Columbus Diocese	Tyler Kohl	District 43
Steubenville Diocese	Bryan Hayes	District 54
Toledo Diocese	Eric Loprete-Winner	District 61
Youngstown Diocese	Willard Lutz	District 78

Best FAITH Activity by Diocese

Diocese	Program Name	Council
Cincinnati	"The Longest Night Service"	St. Leonard Council 10215
Cleveland	"Baby Jesus Prayer Service, Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, Birthday Party"	Brunswick Council 4847
Columbus	"Into the Breach Launching a Young Couples Ministry"	St. Brendan Council 11208
Steubenville	"Saturday Morning Men's Group"	Fr. Frank Patala Council 1716
Toledo	"Men's Night of Reflection"	Leo Council 957
Youngstown	"Divine Mercy Chaplet for All Souls"	Canton Council 341

Best FAMILY Activity by Diocese

Diocese	Program Name	Council
Cincinnati	"Food For Families Program"	Fr. Andrew Kunkler Council 2158
Cleveland	"Keep Christ in Christmas Program"	Fr. Maruskin Council 10936
Columbus	"Food For Families Program"	St. James Council 2299
Steubenville	"Good Friday Promotion"	Fr. Frank Patala Council 1716
Toledo	"Food For Families Program"	Leo Council 957
Youngstown	"Council Bereavement Committee"	Massillon Council 554

Best COMMUNITY Activity by Diocese

Diocese	Council Name	Council
Cincinnati	"Rise Against Hunger"	Madonna Council 3891
Cleveland	"Hooked on Fishing Not Drugs"	North Ridgeville Council 7970
Columbus	"Food Drive Competition Between Rival School District Community's"	Ascension Council 4324
Steubenville	"Sponsorship of Eagle Scout Building Prayer Grotto at Parish"	Msgr. Joseph F. Dooley Council 4361
Toledo	"Month of November Collection Honoring Veteran's for Veteran's in Nursing Care"	Msgr. O'Connell Council 386
Youngstown	"Easter Egg Hunt/Pancake Breakfast"	St. Ambrose Council 11801

Best LIFE Activity by Diocese

Diocese	Council Name	Council Name & No.
Cincinnati	"Nursing Home Bingo"	St. Joseph of the Three Rivers Council 11550
Cleveland	"Bus to Ohio March for Life"	Brunswick Council 4847
Columbus	"Super Bowl Subs for Heartbeats"	Fr. Bill Johnson Council 11665
Steubenville	"Polar Bear Plunge"	Fr. Frank Patala Council 1716
Toledo	"Special Olympics Chili Dinner"	Norwalk Council 626
Youngstown	"Boardman Challenger Baseball League"	Msgr. Mears Council 3930

State Directors

Tim Mangan State General Program Director

Chris Crum State Faith Program Director

Michael Freil State Family Program Director

Matt Smith State Community program Director

Michael Incorvati State Life Program Director

Greg Singlar State Coats for Kids Coordinator

Mark Kosobud State Growth Director

John Hoffman State District Deputy Director

Thank you to all the councils throughout the State of Ohio for submitting so many excellent candidates for Honorees and Best Activities for this past fraternal year. It is a testament to all the great things the Knights of Columbus are doing.

Thank you to the directors above for reviewing all the programs submitted and offering words of wisdom to our councils.

Finally, congratulations to State Deputy Mike Felerski and his team for a successful fraternal year.