



Buckeye Bulletin

Volume 1 - Issue 9

March - 2026

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, I would like to thank everyone who took the time to attend the recent Super Cash Bonanza Road Show stops throughout Ohio. Those are two tough weekends on the road, but we do it because of how important it is to our first principal of charity.

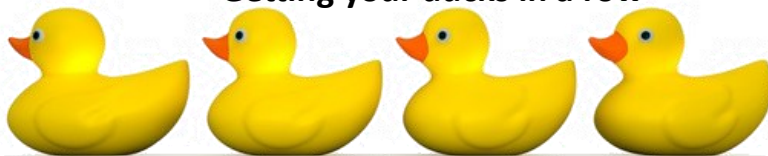
At the end of the presentation I had the opportunity to speak on council excellence. As councils we do the work and it is always nice to “celebrate” (as one of my brother Knights of Father Aufderheide Council says) those program successes in not only our parish bulletins, but also through recognition by the state and in particular by Supreme with the Star Council awards.

There are four components to our additional awards, which can be earned to make up the Star Council Award: The Columbian Award for excellence in your council’s programming and charitable outreach, the Father McGivney Award, which recognizes excellence in your council’s membership growth, and the Founders’ Award for excellence in the promotion of our insurance and fraternal benefits through Fraternal Benefit Events (FBEs). Finally the Grand Knight, Program Director, Community Director, and Family Director have to successfully complete the Safe Environment Program (make sure to accomplish this sooner rather than later).



Michael J. Felerski
State Deputy
mfelerski@icloud.com

Getting your ducks in a row



All of the information on your council’s Star status is available in the monthly **Star Council Report**, compiled and emailed by Ken Girt, State Star Council Director and PSD. It is also available from your District Deputy and on the state website: <https://kofcoho.org/star-council-report/>

Make sure to submit via email or by post your “of the Year” nominations **by April 1** and enter all of your programs on the state website before **April 15th**. The best part is that the state system will essentially generate your Supreme Form SP-7 for you before the end of the fraternal year, so you can submit it to Supreme. Check out the State Program book

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(also found on the state website: kofcoho.org) for more information. You can also reach out to State Program Director Tim Mangan.

I have no doubt that we can achieve over 60 Star Councils this year, which is the goal given to us by Supreme for Ohio, but in order to do that I need your help in entering the information about all the great things your council does. We want Supreme to know that Ohio is a strong and vibrant Catholic Knights of Columbus community!



Remember by earning Star along with the other awards for your council: More men will join, more people will donate, and more charities will benefit. Remember too that *[y]our light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.* [Matthew 5:16]. Thank you for all that you do.

Blessed Michael McGivney, ora pro nobis.

Michael J. Felerski - State Deputy



Celebrate, Recognize, and Nominate Our Youth

Community

I can hardly believe we've reached March already — this fraternal year truly seems to have flown by. As we look back on all that has been accomplished in our communities, it's inspiring to see the dedication and impact made by our youth. This is the time of year when we honor those young individuals who have gone above and beyond, making positive contributions and embodying the values we cherish as Knights of Columbus.

As the State Community Director, I am privileged to select the Youth of the Year, an award that shines a spotlight on exceptional leadership, service, and commitment among our young people. It's not only a celebration of their achievements, but also a testament to the support and guidance provided by our councils and communities.

I encourage you to submit your nominees as soon as possible for consideration. If you have already submitted a nomination and would like to add more information or documentation to further highlight why your candidate deserves this honor, please don't hesitate to do so. Additional materials can help demonstrate the nominee's dedication, impact, and unique qualities that set them apart.

Please send any supporting documents to my email: matt.smith1974kofc@gmail.com. Your thoughtful nominations ensure that we recognize those who truly exemplify the spirit of service and excellence.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to our youth and for helping to make this award meaningful. Let's celebrate the remarkable young people who inspire us all and encourage the next generation of leaders in Ohio. I look forward to receiving your nominations and learning about the outstanding youth in your communities.

Vivat Jesus!

Matt Smith - State Community Director



Matt Smith
Community Director
matt.smith1974kofc@gmail.com



Growth Team Ohio

Here in the middle months of the year, one of the standout facts from a Growth perspective is the eye-popping success of the Brandon Chambers Process Growth drive technique. Pioneered by Brandon Chambers, a Field Agent in South Carolina, and expanded on and refined by the Fraternal Benefits Team, this new type of church drive expands on the success of the Delta Church Drive and makes it easier to complete the JoinUs process.

The Brandon Chambers Process – or BCP – removes one of the last barriers to a successful invitation to join (getting the prospect to fill out the JoinUs site) by taking on the role ourselves. It has been proven to be especially effective when you involve your local Fraternal Benefits Representative (or Field Agent) to assist in the planning and execution, as they are well trained to “close the sale”, especially on those candidates who can’t quite bring themselves to sign the card. The BCP works as is, but you are encouraged to get the advice of your Pastor and other Parish leaders in considering its application to your situation and is also available in Spanish.

Using the BCP is easy! Your first phone call should be to your council Field Agent (or if you are in a Staas Agency area, to Charles Miller / Charles.Miller@kofc.org). The tight integration of the Field Agents, who have had extensive training on the implementation of the Brandon Chambers Process, with your council’s members has been shown to produce results every time.



Mark Kosobud
State Growth Chairman
mkosobud@yahoo.com

Membership Drive Implementation Steps

- The Grand Knight must first obtain permission from the parish priest to conduct a membership drive, emphasizing the benefits for both the parish and its members. If the priest is hesitant, the State Chaplain may be consulted.
- A brief announcement at the end of Mass is essential, ideally delivered by the Grand Knight, Field Agent, or an engaging council member, using prepared Pulpit Announcements.
- Collaboration with the local Field Agent is encouraged for effective outreach and support during the drive.
- Council meetings should be scheduled to organize volunteers who will distribute materials and answer questions at church exits after Mass.

Membership materials, including brochures and enrollment cards, **must be ordered and prepared** for distribution.

Volunteer Preparation and Engagement

- Volunteers should be trained to communicate the benefits of membership and share personal experiences. They should distribute materials before Mass to minimize distractions.

After Mass, volunteers will collect completed Membership Enrollment Cards and ensure no materials are left behind.

Post-Drive Follow-Up

- After the drive, the Grand Knight or designated member must enter new member information into the membership portal and ensure candidates confirm their membership via email.
- Follow-up communication with new members is crucial to welcome them and provide details about the Exemplification ceremony.

Special attention should be given to ensure all paperwork is completed for new members, including those who joined online.

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The BCP aims to streamline the membership process, making it more accessible and effective for potential Knights of Columbus members.

Don't forget, it's also not too soon to be thinking of your council's work to achieve STAR council status for this year. Ask your council leaders to share where your council is along the journey to a STAR reward by passing around Ken Girt's *Star Council Report*.

As always, Vic Lauterbach, myself, and the rest of the Growth Specialty Team – and all the Field Agents –are happy to help you achieve success!

2100 new men here in the Great State of Ohio with 60 STAR councils is within our reach – especially with the BCP tool to help us!

Remember – *Inviting is a mindset, not a date!*

Vivat Jesus!

Mark F Kosobud - State Growth Chairman



Never Too Much

Worthy Brother Knights of the Great State of Ohio.

For March, I want to discuss with you the **FAMILY OF THE YEAR**. By now you and your council officers should have or should be selecting your council's Family of the Year. I have already received about 8 of them. Several of them I had to reject and return for more information. I will give you an example: Mr. Jack & Mrs. Jane Smith are Nominated by Council 1234 for Family of the Year. No additional information.

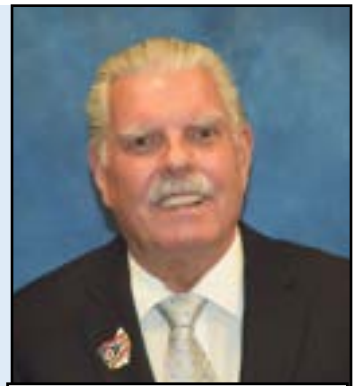
This is unacceptable. When you nominate Family of the Year, please explain all that this family has done to be nominated for this prestigious award. What activities does this family do for your council, parish, & community? Please list every detail possible. They are Eucharistic Ministers, Ushers, Alter Servers, Lectors, and or Jack is an officer of our council, and he has done pancake breakfasts, was chairman of our council's Charity Ticket Drive, etc.

Elaborate on what this family has done, and please include a photograph of the **Family of The Year**. **ALL Family of The Year nominees MUST be sent in PRIOR to April 1, 2026.** At this point, there can never be too much information for you to list on the Family of The Year. The more you list of what they do to be nominated for Family of the Year, the better chance you have on this family becoming Family of The Year 2026.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me, and I will gladly assist you

Vivat Jesus !!

Michael Freil - State Family Director



Michael Freil
Family Director
mcfreil2019@gmail.com

Knights of Columbus

Family of the Year

Awarded to the family of

[Blank line for name]

who has served as an incredible inspiration to our parish, community and council by supporting and strengthening Catholic Family Life

[Blank line for name]

Grand Knight

[Blank line for name]

Council Number [Blank line] Date [Blank line]

Faith in Action Family

Support Our Seminarians - Due 3/15

Please note that the *final SOS turn-in date is March 15, 2026*, and is fast approaching. The time to count and submit those “Jug” contributions has arrived. Hopefully, your council has come up with other inventive ways to support and create awareness for this program. Your council’s Vocations Support activities should not only be designed to raise funds for your SOS contribution, but to also raise awareness of, and promote vocations to, the priesthood, diaconate, and consecrated life. Ask the members of your council to pray for those men and women in formation, as well as for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life

It is still very important that the Knights of Columbus do all that we can to continue to “Build up our Church”. One of the ways that we can continue to do this is through our continued support of vocations in each of our dioceses. Our contributions are essential to our Diocesan Vocations offices to give our current seminarians crucial financial support and assist offices in recruiting and discernment efforts! Our Support Our Seminarians (SOS) program through the Ohio State Council gives your council the opportunity to aid your own Diocesan Vocations Department. Like the Matching Funds program, every dollar collected by your council goes right back to your diocese.

Last Fraternal year 203 councils and 4th Degree assemblies from the State of Ohio contributed a total of \$168,581.52 to the 6 vocations departments across the state. Imagine what this amount could grow to if all councils would contribute. Participation is the key. We need all councils participating by making a contribution, no matter how large or small, to make even more of an impact. Remember, the total collected in your diocese is presented to your Diocesan Vocations Director in July at the State Tour meeting.

A Turn-In form can be downloaded from the State Website, <https://kofcoho.org/programs/sos/>. The Support Our Seminarians info can be found in the Drop-Down list by selecting the “Programs” tab at the top of the page. All checks along with a council turn-in form should be mailed to:

Jeff Kiliany, Imm. Past State Deputy
Ohio State Council SOS Chairman
559 Walnut St.
Leetonia, Ohio 44431

Fraternally,

Jeff Kiliany - Immediate Past State Deputy



Jeff Kiliany
Immediate Past
State Deputy
itktg@yahoo.com



State Chaplain's Monthly Reflection

**Click below to access videos from a monthly series by Ohio's State Chaplain - Father John Paul Walker O.P.*

[Video Series Archive:](#)

[February - Why Confession](#)

[January - Vocation of the Laity, Part 2](#)

[December - Vocation of the Laity, Part 1](#)

[November - The Four Marks of the Church](#)

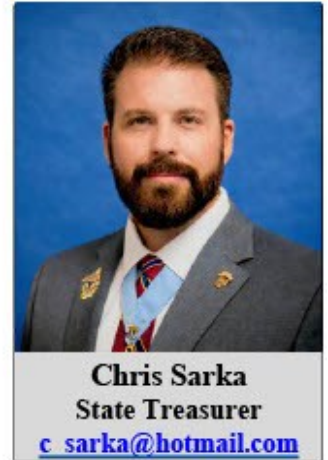


Fr. John Paul Walker, OP
State Chaplain

WHO IS THE **A-TEAM** FOR CHARITY??

Thank you, my Brother Knights, for the incredible turnout for our 2026 Super Cash Bonanza roadshows! I am confident through your efforts we will once again reach \$1,000,000 for charity! Remember to engage your council members and expand sales beyond your

goals through strategic partnerships with other 501c3 organizations. Will you be part of the A-Team for Charity?



127th Ohio State Convention

It is with great excitement to issue this announcement for the 127th Annual Convention of the Ohio State Council, Knights of Columbus!

FIRST CALL LETTERS will be sent out to council Grand Knights this month. Start planning today!

Convention details will of course be available soon on our website:

[State Convention | Ohio State Council](#)

Chris Sarka, Convention Chairman



Important Dates:

Proposed By-Law Changes: Due to State Secretary no later than March 23rd. All other Resolutions due by April 22nd.

In Memoriam: Due to State Treasurer no later than May 1st.



GET IN THE GAME!

2026 "Road to the Final Four" Sweepstakes

Support the Ohio Knights of Columbus & Win Big!



2026 "Road to the Final Four" Sweepstakes is only three weeks from "TIP OFF"

Support the Ohio Knights of Columbus & Win Big!

Experience the **thrill, drama, and sheer excitement** of March Madness like never before! The tournament is a whirlwind of **last-second wins and heart-stopping upsets** where every point matters. Whether it's a top-tier powerhouse or a "Cinderella" underdog making a run, your teams will keep you on the edge of your seat until the final buzzer.

The Game Plan: How to Win

For just a **\$20.00 ticket**, you are assigned **four different NCAA tournament teams** on March 19, 2026. As your teams score points throughout the tournament, your total grows. Even if a team is eliminated, your remaining teams keep you in the running for over **60 ways to win!**

- **First & Second Rounds (March 19–22):** 24 winners of **\$50 each**.
- **Sweet 16 & Elite 8 (March 26–29):** 18 winners of **\$100 each**.
- **Final Four Weekend (April 4 & 6):** Top prizes up to **\$575**, with payouts for the top 10 scores and even a "consolation" prize for the lowest!

IMPORTANT DEADLINE

It is not too late to request Final Four Sweepstakes or additional tickets. Call Gary Eckstein at 614-679-4238 or email to gary.eckman@sbcglobal.net to get into all of the action.

To ensure you are in the drawing, all tickets must be received **no later than March 19, 2026.**

Please mail your tickets and payments to:

Gary Eckstein

PO Box 535

Grove City, Ohio 43123-0535

Make checks payable to: Ohio Knights of Columbus



Take the "3-Ticket Challenge"

Want to be a real MVP? Purchase or sell **three or more tickets** and you'll be automatically entered into an exclusive bonus drawing for additional **\$75 cash awards!**

Don't "air ball" this opportunity—secure your tickets today and help support vital statewide programs across Ohio and help keep the State Per Capita tax at its current rate of \$6.50!

First Weekend

Rounds 64 and 32
24 Winners \$50 Per
\$1,200 Awarded

Second Weekend

Rounds 16 and 8
15 Winners \$100 Per
\$1,500 Awarded

FINAL 4 Weekend

Highest: \$550	Lowest: \$100
2nd Highest: \$400	2nd Lowest: \$50
3rd Highest: \$300	
4th Highest: \$275	
5th Highest: \$150	
6th Highest: \$125	
7th Highest: \$100	
8th Highest: \$100	
9th Highest: \$75	
10th Highest: \$75	





Take Advantage of Cor Materials for Lenten Prep

Brother Knights,

We are now into the second full week of Lent. If you are still looking for some ideas on how to have a spiritually beneficial Lent, I would like to suggest Supreme's series of videos called Built for Sacrifice. They feature Fr. Johnathon Kalisch and Ren-

zo Ortega. You will find a great conversation about why, what, and how to have a fulfilling Lent. These videos can be found at the link [here](#).

I'd like to continue to encourage councils to appoint a council EFF director. It's a great way to stay informed about all the formation resources available to your councils. Currently we have seventy-nine councils with an EFF Director. If you are unsure about your council, reach out to your District Deputy, your Diocesan EFF Director, or me.



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

Lent



I would also like to remind councils that holding a men's small faith group (Cor Group) is not a reportable event with regards to Faith in Action. I've received several alerts from Chris Crum, the State Faith Director, indicating councils are reporting Cor gatherings as faith programs. Although I am very pleased that you are undertaking this much needed endeavor, this is more about the spiritual health of the men you serve and less about receiving points. Keep holding these

gatherings and keep inviting new men to join you in an encounter with Christ.

On that note, you can let us know how you are doing by submitting the Cor Quarterly report form which can be found [here](#). It takes less than five minutes and is instrumental in helping Supreme and the State provide councils with the resources they need to complete this mission. Also, if you have a great success story that you'd like to share, send me an email and it may end up in the Buckeye Bulletin.

In closing, I'd like to say that Christ's love changes lives. As Catholics, it's our duty and responsibility to spread the Word and offer others the gift we have been given.

Vivat Jesus,

Arron Mier - Director of Evangelization & Faith Formation

2100 New Knights

For Now and for Our Future

60 Star Councils



As the Deadlines Approach, Is Your Council Ready?

Worthy Brother Knights of the Great State of Ohio,

Now that March is here, it is time to put the final additions on your Honorees of the Year. Remember, these write-ups are **due by April 1, 2026**.

You only have one more month to get these write-ups submitted! Please, submit the form on the state website, along with all supporting documents into one PDF to attach. The Honorees of the Year are MANDATORY for the “We Are Called” State Program Contest. If a council submits these write-ups **after April 1, 2026**, it will still get the points awarded. However, the write-up will not be part of the state director judging process.

Also, be sure to report all your council’s activities **by April 15, 2026**. You only have one and a half months left to go! At midnight, our Worthy Webmaster will be turning off the website! This means if you are doing programs in May or June, you must report them before **April 15th!**



Tim Mangan
State General
Program Director
timangan@icloud.com

If you want to submit an activity that you feel is worthy of being recognized as the “Best Activity in the State,” please submit all supporting documentation in PDF as well. Make sure these write-ups are beautifully written! Let the state director know ALL the details! Make these write-ups stand out! The better the write-ups are, the better chance your council has in being selected! The deadline for the “Best Activity in the State” is also due **by April 15, 2026**.

Next, there are two more programs that must be completed for your council to be a Star Council and max out the State Program Contest. First, be sure to have completed two Fraternal Benefits nights. Councils that have under one hundred members need ten eligible members in attendance (This is the total for both Fraternal Benefits Nights. Example: five one night and five the second night). Councils with over one hundred members must have at least fourteen eligible members attend (Example: 7 the first night and seven the second night).

Lastly, the final program that councils need to do is make sure that they are Youth Compliant. You can see this on Past State Deputy Ken Girt’s Star Council report and on the state website. If your Youth Compliance is approved, then you are in good shape! If your Youth Compliance is rejected, then feel free to reach out to me and I will be more than happy to help you find out which director is not compliant so you can get this taken care of! Youth Compliance is found under the Administrative Activities and is a mandatory requirement to max out the “We Are Called State Program Contest!

Fraternally,
Tim Mangan - State General Program Director

Happy St. Patrick's Day



Life

An Incentive That Increases Your Council's Impact

Brothers,

In case you missed it, Supreme announced an exciting incentive that combines the ASAP program and growth! Any council that recruits at least 3 new members from Feb. 1 through March 31 and participates in the ASAP program any time this fraternal year, Supreme will donate an additional \$250 to the pregnancy center that they supported. This is in addition to the ASAP check!

I counted 30 councils that had recruited at least 2 new members in the first few weeks of February, but only 3 have been approved for the ASAP program by Supreme. Judging by all the program reports, many have made some spectacular donations, but the paperwork hasn't been processed. Hopefully, this will help to give you incentive to get that processed sooner than later. If you have already been approved, great! Now let's work on the new members!

With the last full month of reporting upon us, many might be trying to fill in that last Life program to max their points for the year. I'm sure many of you know that March 25 is the Feast of the Annunciation. It is also the International Day of the Unborn Child. It would make a great time to plan a Holy Hour for Life with Our Lady of Guadalupe. Only a few councils have made a report on this program, and it can be worth double the points!

Thanks for all you do for the unborn, new mothers, and those with special needs.

Vivat Jesus,

Mike Incorvati - State Life Director



Mike Incorvati
Life Director

mlbincorvati@gmail.com



ASAP

Faith in Action

Life

Policy On Sale or Raffle of Firearms

For Knights of Columbus Councils in Ohio [Revised 1/26]

Members of the Knights of Columbus in Ohio, as faithful Catholics, are directed to look to the Church for guidance in responding to specific pastoral matters affecting, among other things, the integrity of family life and the right to life. The Catholic Conference of Ohio has recently provided written guidance to the faithful on the safety and security of Ohio Catholic diocesan facilities and matching policies on the sale or raffle of firearms.

Certain provisions of this pastoral guidance directly apply to councils, assemblies, and chapters of the Knights of Columbus. Specifically, the bishops' pastoral guidance includes a new policy for each diocese in Ohio that prohibits "any Catholic parish or diocesan-affiliated organization or facility from (i) hosting a sale or raffle involving firearms or other weapons and (ii) accepting contributions directly or indirectly from a sale or raffle of firearms."

This prohibition expressly includes "indirect situations that could occur when an organization hosts a gun sale or raffle and then seeks to donate funds from the sale or raffle to a parish or Church ministry."

Questions about these new diocesan policies should be directed to each respective local diocesan chancery for each Knights of Columbus council, assembly, or chapter.

Tony Offenberger - State Advocate



Tony Offenberger
State Advocate

tonyoffenberger@gmail.com



**Knights of
Columbus®**

Join ASAP – Council Incentive

**Provide life saving
support to women
and children in your
community
– join ASAP!**

Council Benefit:

- Earn an additional \$250 donation for one pregnancy resource center or maternity home your council supported through the ASAP (Aid and Support After Pregnancy) program.

The Bonus:

- The top 10 recruiting councils will also receive an additional \$750 for the pregnancy resource or maternity home, bringing the total incentive to \$1,000 for those winners!
 - o Please note, the top ten recruiting councils will be chosen based on the February 1st through March 31st time frame.

The Requirements:

- Exemplify a minimum of 3 new members from 02/01/2026- 03/31/2026
- Participate in the ASAP program (min. \$500 donation) any time from 7/1/25 - 6/30/26
- To qualify, councils must apply for ASAP through the online form at kofc.org/asap or [this link](#). Councils that have already received a grant through ASAP in the 2025-26 fraternal year do not need to reapply. This \$250 will be in addition to the standard amount your council already earns(ed) as part of the standard ASAP program.

Help your council's impact reach new heights this year. Extend the hand of brotherhood and encourage Catholic men to Join ASAP!

*For Insurance jurisdictions only. Other restrictions apply.

Councils listed below have already achieved one of the two requirements for the ASAP incentive program. In order to be fully eligible, the final two columns must both be green, signifying ASAP participation and membership growth.

COUNCIL	DISTRICT	LOCATION	MEMBERSHIP	January 31st	2/24/2026	Incentive Eligible Gains	ASAP Completed
310	33	Mayfield Heights	260	7	7	0	YES
341	72	Canton	149	4	4	0	YES
505	41	Zanesville	384	2	2	0	YES
554	73	Massillon	441	3	3	0	YES
626	65	Norwalk	280	5	5	0	YES
789	32	Wooster	96	1	1	0	YES
847	43	Mt Vernon	105	5	10	5	NO
1246	52	Bellaire	95	1	6	5	NO
1362	62	Delphos	465	2	5	3	NO
1757	63	Ottawa	1041	3	7	4	NO
1818	78	Salem	86	2	2	0	YES
1890	78	East Palestine	38	0	0	0	YES
1991	1	Coldwater	565	3	8	5	YES
2158	2	Minster	345	2	12	10	NO
2299	39	Logan	109	0	5	5	YES
3123	14	Cincinnati	126	3	3	0	YES
3324	1	Fort Recovery	370	12	16	4	YES
3724	5	Fairborn	264	12	15	3	NO
4168	24	Medina	177	4	7	3	NO
4471	81	Struthers	131	0	0	0	YES
4539	65	Vermilion	133	2	3	1	YES
4617	54	Beverly	313	5	5	0	YES
5253	44	Reynoldsburg	207	2	2	0	YES
5582	73	Navarre	122	8	12	4	NO
5621	17	Cincinnati	68	1	1	0	YES
5776	46	Westerville	351	9	13	4	NO
7978	68	Perrysburg	182	3	6	3	NO
10003	15	Milford	131	5	5	0	YES
10149	16	Hillsboro	57	2	2	0	YES
10183	78	Columbiana	84	4	4	0	YES
11224	35	West Jefferson	80	1	4	3	NO
11275	36	Upper Arlington	171	2	3	1	YES
11370	58	Maumee	134	4	7	3	NO
11464	24	Columbia Station	31	1	1	0	YES
12772	35	Plain City	114	3	3	0	YES
14400	9	Springboro	119	5	5	0	YES
14665	12	Cincinnati	135	0	0	0	YES
14834	14	Cincinnati	93	5	6	1	YES
14891	8	Kettering	106	2	3	1	YES
15533	17	Cincinnati	62	5	5	0	YES
15569	54	Little Hocking	44	3	3	0	YES
15573	81	Poland	96	8	11	3	YES
16137	26	Parma	59	2	5	3	NO
16348	16	West Union	26	0	0	0	YES
16376	21	Westlake	107	2	2	0	YES
18195	36	Columbus	51	17	20	3	NO
18527	22	Cleveland	20	0	3	3	NO



Servant Leadership: Lead Like Christ

Faith

Some people claim to stand for God while tying millstones around necks and calling it holiness. They give burdens to others they will not carry. They bruise people with “truth,” then walk away feeling righteous. Any leadership that multiplies burdens but refuses to carry any is false, no matter how “orthodox” it sounds. If our correction comes with contempt, if our standards come without sacrifice, we are not reflecting Jesus. We’ve seen it. I’ve done it. And every time we load burdens onto others without lifting a finger to help, we are not leading like Christ. We are performing.

Jesus has every right to command. Instead, He knelt. He washed feet. He carried the Cross. He gave authority a new face: a towel in the hands of a King. And He said it plainly: “But it shall not be so among you. Rather, whoever wishes to be great among you shall be your servant” (Matthew 20:26). “I am among you as one who serves” (Luke 22:27).

Servant leadership is not passive, apologetic, or permanently agreeable. Jesus served, and He also confronted, clarified, and drew lines. A servant leader tells the truth, sets standards, protects the vulnerable, and does the hard thing. The towel is not weakness. It is proof we are willing to go first.

He did not give us a manifesto against “them.” Rather it is a call to “us.” The renewal we want will not come from louder arguments. It will come from men who quietly take responsibility, carry the towel, and rebuild trust one ordinary act at a time. Strong enough to serve. Humble enough to listen. Courageous enough to go first.

Leadership



Some men are waiting like leadership is a lottery ticket. When life calms down. When we feel ready. When someone finally notices. But the world is littered with men who waited until the moment passed through their hands. And the call does not only belong to one kind of man. Some are leading in marriages. Some are single. Some are widowers. Some are separated. Some are fathers. Some are spiritual fathers. The call still stands: take responsibility for what has been entrusted to us. God builds sanctity from faithful steps, not ideal circumstances.

The Church will survive the noise. What our world may not survive is our silence in responsibility. Men who refuse ownership create a vacuum. Vacuums do not stay empty. They fill with confusion, fatigue, resentment, and the kind of leadership that wounds.

Most of us think leadership is charisma, confidence, a microphone. But leadership is not a title. It is a decision. Many of us think, “I’m not a leader,” but what we mean is, “I don’t have a position.” The reality is: leadership is initiative under responsibility. We are already leading. If we do not lead on purpose, we lead by default. Mood leads us. Appetite leads us. The phone leads us. Comfort leads us. And whatever leads us spills onto everyone connected to us.

Servant leadership is not passivity. It is ownership aimed at love. It is when we see a real need and say, “I will step into the gap.”

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Chris Crum
Faith Director

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Do not wait for a dramatic “big moment.” Build a small habit you can keep: be a man with a towel. One quiet yes, a day beats a heroic burst once a month. The goal is not intensity. The goal is reliability.

In the Church, authority exists to build up. The Church remembers what the world forgets: to serve is to reign. The Pope is called the “Servant of the Servants of God.” Laymen then are not spiritual extras. By Baptism we share in Christ’s mission as priest, prophet, and king. Our Priestly Role is to Sanctify Through Sacrifice; your altar is your daily life. Our Prophetic Role is to Witness to Truth in Love. You tell the truth and points people back to God. Our Kingly Role is Governance as Service; you must be strong and capable but controlled through self-mastery. That is not theoretical. It is our lane: our home, our parish, our job site, our community.

Jesus gives us the pattern in John 13. He rises unprompted. He removes His outer garment. He wraps Himself in a towel. He washes feet. Then He sends His men into the world and expects them to lead the same way. If we lead like Christ, we will not control people. We will lift and show them the path.

And we should expect resistance. Not because people are the enemy, but because hesitation, mockery, and embarrassment, are common obstacles that stop men from taking responsibility. The same three stones show up again and again as:

- Temptation: make it about us, prove ourselves, dominate, control.
- Discouragement: convince us we do not matter, sit down, stay quiet.
- Division: isolate us, keep everything private, call pride “independence.”

Those stones become either steppingstones we climb or weights we tie to our own ankles.

Jesus called out leaders who sought to control, for the sake of their own pride and will. That is not authority. That is spiritual tyranny. And God takes it personally when His children are harmed by false leadership. It is not about becoming impressive in the eyes of the crowd. It is about becoming trustworthy before God.

- Servant leadership is:
- Humility instead of domination.
- Courage instead of hesitation.
- Communion instead of isolation.
- Truth with charity.
- Correction without contempt.
- Standards with Sacrifice.
- Calm strength, not emotional control.
- Responsibility before credit.

And it is trained, not wished for.

People do not follow titles. They follow trust. And trust is built the same way every time: consistency, sacrifice, and presence, especially when it costs. Our home does not need us to be impressive. It needs us to be dependable. Our parish does not need observers. It needs shoulders.

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Specifics beat inspiration. Plans beat intentions. This is leadership we can do with a busy life. This is leadership we can do before we feel ready.

If we are to become servant leaders, we must stop hunting for a big moment and train in small ones. Each day, do one hidden act of service. Pick up what is not “your job.” Serve the person who cannot repay you. Do it quietly. Let God alone see it.

And stay fed. Leaders who are starving become harsh. Sunday Mass is not optional for men called to lead. Confession is not punishment. It is healing. The Eucharist is not a symbol. It is strength.

This is not about men being “more important” than women. It is about stewardship. A consistent pattern in research says that when a man practices the faith visibly and consistently, children are more likely to practice their faith as adults. A father’s lived faith changes the attitude of the home. When he goes first, others often follow. When he goes last, others often drift. Our presence, our practice, our example multiplies.

So, Christ’s calling cannot be left on “read”

If resistance rises, do not argue with it. Find the why behind it. What is the smallest act of service we have avoided because it feels beneath us? What are we afraid will happen if we lead and it is awkward? What is the cost if we do not?

We don’t need a perfect plan. We need movement. No more spectatorship. No more “someone should.” No more waiting to be invited. If a need is real and within our reach, we own it quietly and decisively with a towel, not a spotlight.

Make it a system, not a mood. Make a schedule: Mass, prayer, one hidden act of service, one step on the initiative, fraternal contact. Because here’s what happens when we just intend to lead: we rehearse the idea in our minds so many times it starts to feel like action... until one day we realize we’ve been “meaning to” for years.

If we miss something, we do not dramatize it. We restart tonight. The enemy loves delay dressed up as “someday.” Servant leadership is reps. Miss a rep, take the next one.

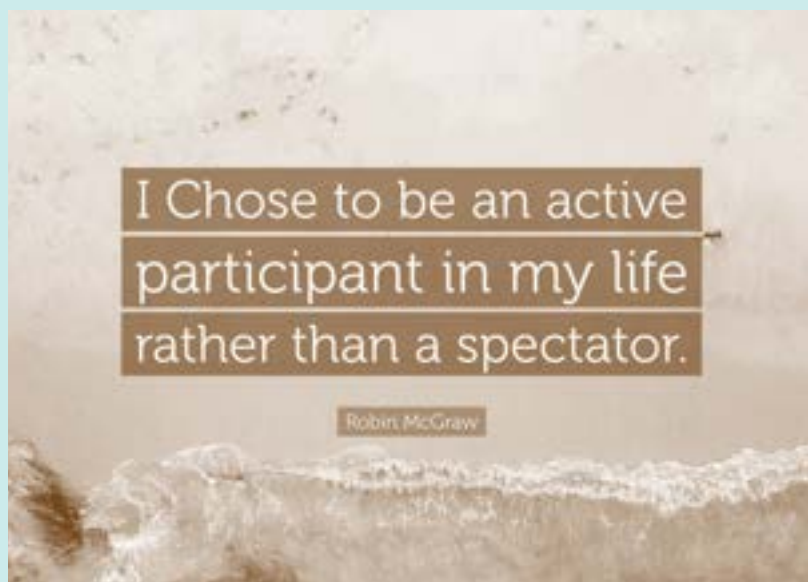
Christ did not wash feet to give us a sentimental story. He did it to hand us a command. Pick up the towel. Pick up the Cross. Pick up responsibility. The world is starving for servant leaders in homes, in parishes, at work, in the streets. Men whose humility has a spine, whose truth has a heart, whose presence is steady, and whose love costs something. So we do not wait for confidence. We do not wait for the crowd. We go first. Because when Catholic men lead like Christ, burdens get lifted, trust returns, and souls come home.

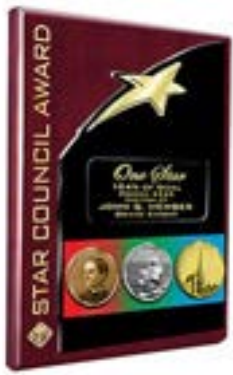
Step onto the field. Carry the towel. Stand in the breach. We lead, we serve, so the world remembers how to kneel.

Vivat Jesus!

Chris Crum - State Faith Director

Next Month: **Month 10: Charity and Service – The Strength of Mercy**





7 Councils Qualify for Mid-Year Award

My Brother Knights,

The March Star Council Report will be issued soon. Please review your council's status and address missing reports, safe-environment, growth recruitment, and fraternal benefit quotas. We now have four months left in the fraternal year to achieve Star Council.

I want to remind all councils that we will have a new award at the state convention for **all Grand Knights** whose councils 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 necessarily mean your council will achieve Supreme's Star Council Award as of June 30, but they should. We encourage all councils not to wait until June 30 to complete their Star Council Award requirements. Continue working on the Star Council Award NOW!

Vivat Jesus!

Ken Girt, PSD - State Star Council Director

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



Knights of Columbus
INSURANCE
YOUR SHIELD FOR LIFE

Protect Yourself from Changes Brought on by Taxes

Brothers,

Tax season is here! Whether you're ahead of the game and done filing, or you're putting it off for another couple weeks, this time of year is a good opportunity to consider whether your tax rate or bracket has changed. If so, do you know the implications for your long-term financial strategy? People can end up in a higher tax bracket than they anticipate when their income fluctuates — for example, if your salary changed, or if you retired and are drawing on different income sources.

Paying a higher tax rate may mean less disposable income or less money to leave to your family as you planned. You can protect yourself against these potential losses and build dependable cash value through permanent life insurance with the Knights of Columbus. Permanent life insurance allows you to build cash value that you can access tax-free while you're alive. You can also create an income tax-free inheritance for your loved ones after you pass allowing permanent life insurance to be useful in a range of situations. Of course, we always recommend that you work with a qualified tax advisor or CPA in addition.

By helping to secure your financial future and legacy with the Knights of Columbus, you're living out the vision of Blessed Michael McGivney, who founded our Order 144 years ago this month. Reach out to your field agent at www.kofc.org/faa to set up an appointment today.

Knights of Columbus and its agents are not authorized to provide financial planning, legal or tax advice. Cash value growth is gradual and may take time to accumulate. Access to the policy's cash values is through loans and withdrawals and will reduce the policy's cash value and death benefit, may result in a taxable event, and could cause the policy to lapse if not properly managed. Policy loans accrue interest.

Jason Staas - State Insurance Liaison



Jason Staas
Insurance Liaison
Jason.Staas@kofc.org

Brothers... YOU Need To Do This...

Each and every Brother Knight in the State of Ohio needs to Enthroner their home/condo/apartment/assisted living space to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and it needs to be done THIS LENT! Brothers, you are the spiritual leader of your wife, family, kids and grandkids. Too many men “punt” on this most important duty and leave it to their wives to lead the family in faith matters. We need to reverse this trend and stand in the breach.

Brothers, **YOU** are called to lead your wife and family in faith matters and to be the protector of your household. It doesn't matter what state in life you find yourself, young, old, married, divorced, widower, small kids, adult kids, no kids, grandkids - the **BEST THING** you can do for yourself, your marriage, your kids/grandkids as leader and protector of your household is to invite the Sacred Heart of Jesus into your living quarters and Enthroner Him, make Him the King & Lord of your marriage, your family and your home/condo/apartment.

And all Brothers in Ohio have the huge advantage of having the nation's fastest growing lay Sacred Heart Ministry in the nation -the **Sacred Heart Enthronement Network**, right in their backyard, in Columbus, Ohio (and reaching out to the 4-corners of the globe from the www.WelcomeHisHeart.com website). The Sacred Heart Enthronement Network stands ready, willing & able to assist you with everything you need to Enthroner your living space to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Make it a commitment to get this holy devotion completed this Lent, and you will see the fruits in the coming weeks and months.



The Sacred Heart Enthronement Network ministry has all the materials, prayers, support, and guidance you need to make it happen. Plus, we are available to assist via phone, email, text, zoom or in-person. Yes, we have Enthronement Missionaries that will come to your living space to assist in-person, if needed, if wanted. Or we can leave you to manage it all yourself and we can provide the materials and written guidance via mail. Your decision, your call. It is our life's mission to get all Catholic marriages/families under the leadership of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Brothers, the best the way to bless and protect yourself, your marriage, and your family in this crazy and insane world is to invite the Sacred Heart of Jesus into your living space via the Enthronement process. Contact me or visit our website with any questions or to get the process started. We are here to help! God bless!

Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us!

Brother John Swisher, PGK, Fr. Andrew H. Hohman Council 5253, Reynoldsburg, Ohio

Sacred Heart Enthronement Network, 4675 Winterset Drive, Columbus, OH 43220

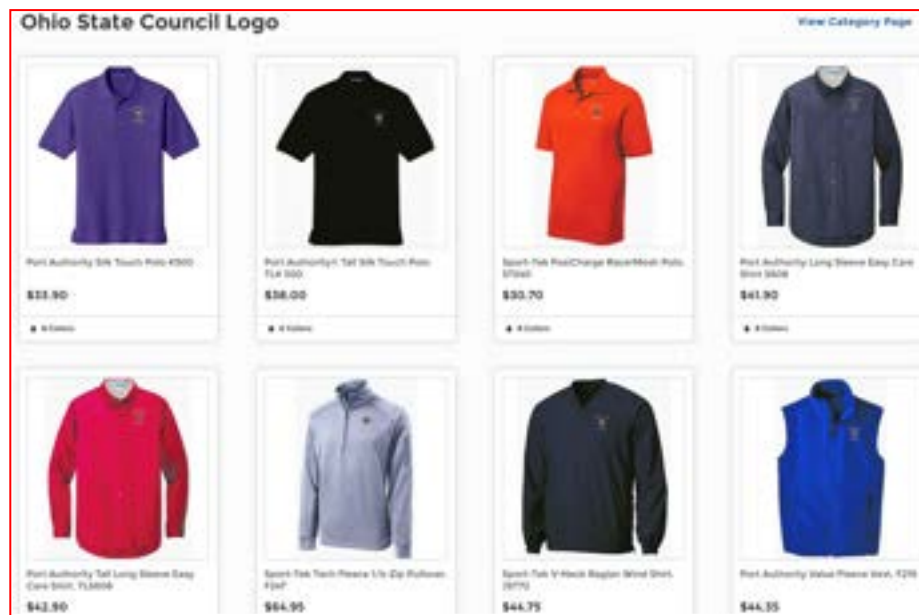
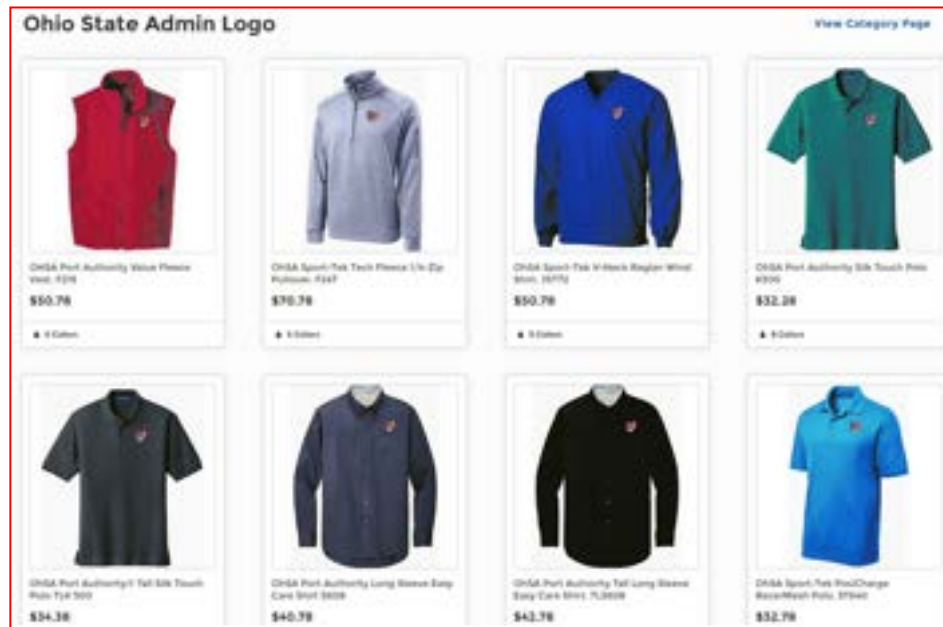
www.WelcomeHisHeart.com / 614-477-7730 / swisher721@gmail.com



State Apparel Update

Worthy Brothers of Ohio!!

After some careful negotiations and reworking of our State Administrative Logo and State Council Logo there were pricing changes, but not as heavy as I first imagined. Apparel ONLINE is now only a few bucks more plus shipping.



T-Shirts, Hats, and Pins are all still the same price!!

Please visit the State Apparel Store from now until Feb 21st 2026. The store will then be closed off for a few months and reopen in the Spring May 1st. Golf and baseball season is just around the corner so, get your orders started today!

I also have a great stock in Umbrella's, 40oz Tumblers, Wine Tumblers, and Challenge Coins from past conventions that I would be happy to make bulk deals on!

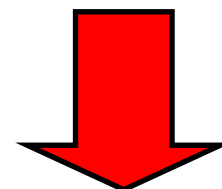
Great Insurance Agent incentive gifts!!

Any questions or concerns feel free to reach out to me at

matt.stapleton76@gmail.com 419-509-5987.

See you at the State Free throw in March!!

Matt Stapleton – State Merch Guy!



<https://kofcoho.mremblem.com/shop/home/>

Around the Buckeye State



For the third straight Christmas season, **Perpetual Help Council 4603**, Grove City, OH, has coordinated the collection of needed clothing/materials for Promise of Hope (POH), Columbus, OH, an organization that helps feed and clothe the homeless and underhoused every weekend of the year.

Within the past 3 years, Council 4603 has coordinated with the Silver Streaks program at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church to secure over 1,200 pair of socks annually for POH, as well as hats, scarves, gloves and coats. POH is also a beneficiary of the Council Coats for Kids program.

Further, with the aid of Brother Tim Sedlock and retailer Jonathan Peets, POH has received 2 separate donations each of 150 pairs of athletic shoes in all sizes. Mr. Peets has pledged additional donations.

Pictured top left are brother knight Tim Sedlock; Mr. Jonathan Peets and brother knight Tom Rock.



On Jan. 17th, **St. Jude Council 10183** (Columbiana) held a Soup Dinner with monies raised for Council Charities. We had 9 different Soups prepared and served by the knights.

The cooks, pictured left to right, were Grand Knight Charlie Troll, Dan Malanowsky, John Pryor, Treasurer Bryan Heestand, Dan Radar, Bryan Schutz, Bob Bussard, Eric Blystone and Paul Schuler.



Around the Buckeye State



Holy Spirit Council #14959 (Uniontown) held their first live degree ceremony on January 18th after 9:30 Mass at Little Flower Church welcoming Aaron Valentine into their council.

Front row left to right degree team Financial Secretary John Scheninger, Deputy Grand Knight Terry Smith, Aaron Valentine, Grand Knight Steve Valentine, and District Deputy Ron Cricks. Back row left to right Chancellor Mark Violand, Recorder Jim Howard, Spiritual Advisor Deacon Mike Capitina, Treasurer Denny Eichler, and John Chan.



***Feast of Saint
Joseph***
March 19



St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Council 11187 in Pickerington, hosted a complimentary pancake breakfast for all parishioners for the 2nd year, in conjunction with Breakfast with Santa and Keep Christ in Christmas. There were approximately 400 people in attendance.

Around the Buckeye State



Eight new men joined the Knights of Columbus in the Diocese of Steubenville on Sunday, Feb. 1st. Father Dan Huesel presided over an exemplification of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity assisted by District Three Fourth Degree Knights from around the Diocese. Six of the new men joined **Our Lady of Peace Council 4243** and two men joined **St Frances Cabrini Council 11195**, Colerain, and **Bellaire Council 1246**. The ceremony took place at St. Joseph Church, Bellaire, and a reception followed in the Bellaire Council social hall.



Faithful Navigator, Chris Dodson, from **Monsignor Graham Assembly 828** in Canton, presented a check for \$1,262.50 to Roger Sellers from **Canton Council #341**. Roger was the winner of the assembly's annual Honor Home 50/50, which raises funds for the Honor Home of Canton, which provides food, clothing, and shelter in a transitional and rapid rehousing setting for homeless veterans.



Around the Buckeye State



Joseph Cardinal Bernardin Council #12359 in Cincinnati executed the Free Throw Championship at 2 parish schools within their parish family (Immaculate Heart of Mary and Guardian Angels) and at 1 Cincinnati Inner-City Catholic school (Corryville Catholic). **They had 661 kids participate!** PGK Ed English - who has run the event for the last 26 years – takes a unique approach to maximize participation: he works with the school Phys Ed instructors to incorporate the Free Throw challenge into each grade's gym class during a week in January - this results in ~95% of all kids in the 9-14 age group participating in the event! Pictured below are council members who assisted with the District competition (L to R): GK Frank Simms, Jr., PGK Bob Hilmer, Jim Finnegan, PGK Ed English, Ray Riesenber, Dave Buschle, David Weissnar, PGK Nick McCarroll, Bob Meyer, DD Tom Hahn.



On January 30, Friends of the Josephinum held its 16th annual **Clergy Who Cook!** event that benefits the seminarians in formation at the Pontifical College Josephinum. Father David Arroyo, CR (Vicar for Hispanic Ministries in the Diocese of Columbus) and members of **San Pedro Council 18195** competed with other clergy in the Diocese of Columbus with homemade tacos, which was awarded "Most Complex". Pictured above are Adan Cruz (Financial Secretary), Jesus Gonzalez, Cristian Avalos (Grand Knight), and Fr. Arroyo.



The Regional Free Throw Competition for the Diocese of Steubenville took place today at St. Mary's Catholic High School in Marietta, Ohio. Father Emmanuel Nwosu opened the event by offering blessing over all of the competitors, boys and girls ages 9-14.

Around the Buckeye State



Pictured above with State Deputy Michael Felerski (left) and Diocesan District Deputy Coordinator Tom Hahn (right) are this year's regional winners from the Archdiocese of Cincinnati's free throw competition who will advance to the state competition in March.



Pictured above with Immediate Past State Deputy Jeff Kiliany (back row, 2nd from right), District Deputy Coordinator, Paul Eckinger (back row, 4th from right) and district deputies from the Youngstown Diocese are this year's regional winners who will be advancing to the state competition in March. The competition was held at James A. Garfield High School in Garrettsville.

Around the Buckeye State



Pictured above are this year's winners of the Toledo Diocese free throw competition, who will advance to the state competition in Columbus in March.



It was a busy month for **Fairborn Council 3724**, which hosted a Mardi Gras Carnival in support of Mary Help of Christians Parish School PSR program. The Council provided free food and drinks and children walked out with their share of candy, prizes, and a Gatorade.

The council also presented a check to Archbishop Carroll High School students to help pay for their trip to DC for the National March for Life.

The council also held its semiannual Reverse Raffle to the delight of almost 200 attendees. Event Chairman PGK Frank Minnick would like to thank all the Brother Knights who helped with this event to raise money for the Council's many charities. It takes a great group of workers to make this happen.

