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Christopher A Kolomjec
State Deputy



My Brother Knights and Ladies,

Vivat Jesus! Well, my last article garnered so many positive responses, the most ever, I have decided to continue writing on the Holy Mass since the changes of Vatican II. I would like to address two issues in particular, Altar Servers and Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist.

Regarding Altar Servers, this can be a very hot button subject. Now, coming from my parish of Assumption Grotto in Detroit where we have over 40 male altar servers, my view may be a bit biased but nevertheless it will be a viewpoint from the male perspective as I am the State Deputy of a male fraternity. In my view, part

of the problem attracting vocations to the priesthood is our relative abandonment of male “altar boys,” as we commonly know them. Traditionally, the first step towards the priesthood has always been regarded as beginning with serving on the altar. Unfortunately, many, if not most parishes have ceded the role of altar server to girls. It is not uncommon in suburban parishes to see the majority, if not all, the altar servers to be girls. Now, this in and of itself is not a bad thing, and certainly the Church has permitted female altar servers since John Paul II affirmed their use. But the problem becomes attracting 8 to 18-year-old boys who now see serving as not part of the priest formation process at best, but more of a feminine role at worst. Most parents will tell you that it is impossible to reason with a 10-year-old boy if he is convinced serving on the altar is more for girls. I would submit to you that this is a perfect time and area for us in Knights of Columbus to assert ourselves and help this problem. It would be a great idea for a Knights of Columbus Dad, preferably with altar server age sons, to take over running the local altar server program. Include male activities like Detroit Tiger Games or Campouts to attract the boys. In other words, make serving on the altar more masculine. Train the boys to take the role serious and have a rank structure for the older boys to move up to. Dress the boys in real cassocks and surplices like the seminarians to give back a sense of pride and privilege. It will take more than complaining to pastors, it will take councils willing to financially sponsor such changes and men willing to work hard and reliably to make them. These are ways our councils can make big differences in parish life and even vocations.

The next subject is reverential reception of Holy Communion. As I have written before, the Church is dealing with a crisis of belief in the true presence of Our Lord in the Eucharist. This is yet another area that we, as Knights, can make an impact. The State Officers and our wives have made a conscience decision to receive communion on the tongue as an outward sign of our belief in the true

presence. This is not to say those who receive in the hand do not believe in the true presence, but reception on the tongue is a small gesture to remind us and those watching that it is truly God we are receiving and not a mere symbol. This type of reception of Holy Communion can be very powerful, especially when receiving the Most Blessed Sacrament from the anointed hands of our priests and bishops. It is as if we are reminded that Christ himself, present not only in the Eucharist but also in the priest or bishop who stands in the place of Christ on earth. We are receiving as the apostles did at the Last Supper. This raises the issue of distribution of Holy Communion by Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist (Notice that I didn't call them Eucharistic Ministers, as the proper Church does not even recognize that term). We are still receiving God, whether it is from the priest or a layman. As Knights, what can we do to improve the circumstances surrounding the distribution of communion at our parishes? Perhaps we can encourage the Pastor to let the Knights help by not just becoming Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist, but by making such ministry more extraordinary. We could offer to set up more rigorous training, encourage more men of the council to partake, we could even offer to dress in white robes or better yet cassocks and surplices to distribute communion. In other words, it is not enough just to complain in the lack of reverence for the Blessed Sacrament, we can and should do something about it. There may not be enough priests anymore to limit distribution of Holy Communion by the ordained but that's no excuse to reduce the sublime reception of this Most Holy Sacrament to a trivial task no greater than the exchange of peace. We have a duty as Knights to show our priests that we are willing to do more to protect the dignity and respect of the true presence found in Holy Communion and not waste our time longing for times past.

To conclude, this was just the tip of the iceberg on both subjects, but I hope it raises the understanding that the Knights are expected to take leadership roles, not just in our councils but also our parishes. It means we will have to take on more meaningful work to help make our parishes more holy. The traditional role of Knights raising funds will surely seem easy compared to the efforts required to make our parishes more masculine let alone more holy. But we must do it. Our times call for these efforts more than ever. We will have a National Eucharistic Conference to support this summer but there is much more we can do now at our own parishes to help energize the faith.

Vivat Jesus!

Christopher A. Kolomjec
Michigan State Deputy

**From The State Chaplain
Fr. Aidan Logan**



The Real Christmas Story

The wonderful story of Christmas (the Christ Child, the shepherds, the angels, Mary & Joseph, the manger, the Magi and all the other details) is all the more wonderful because it has changed the meaning of life forever. It is the source of our whole Western Civilization - not just in terms of art and music and drama but more fundamentally the birth of Jesus Christ is the source of the very idea of the dignity of the individual human person and the sanctity of human life.

But more importantly, from that moment on we can never claim that God is outside our lives and our world. We can never say that God doesn't know what it's like. He's not only in our world and has gone through all the evils of life and death but he has conquered them.

If we really think about it and listen to what the Gospels actually say we notice that the Christmas story is not all sweetness and light. Like everything in real life it has its dark side: the poverty of Mary and Joseph, the dirt and smell of the stable, the evil and ruthless King Herod who slaughters all the baby boys in Bethlehem, the escape of the Holy Family into Egypt. Even some parts of the

story WE think are romantic were never intended to be so. Shepherds were definitely not considered nice people in those days: they were dirty, ignorant, lived almost like animals and, most importantly, their work placed them outside the possibility of observing the Law of God. By definition they were sinners and unclean. Shepherds were very nasty people. The Magi, the Wise Men, were also questionable characters. Most people thought of them the way the way we would think of fortunetellers and palm readers.

Going beyond this incidental darkness, that first Christmas, the birthday of life, was the first day of a cosmic life and death struggle. It was the day when good and evil entered into deadly combat. It was the first day of a conflict that would reach its climax on the cross and its resolution with the Resurrection, when Jesus triumphed over death once and for all.

Here is this little baby asleep in a manger and all around him the mighty powers of heaven and hell are centered. The angels are so amazed, so full of joy that God should become man, that for one brief moment they are visible - even to some scruffy shepherds. And the powers of evil make the first of many attempts to destroy him.

Why dwell on the dark side of the Christmas story? Isn't there enough darkness in our world? Certainly! All too much! And that's exactly why the dark side of the Christmas story is so important. This darkness and violence makes it clear to us that God became man at an actual moment in real time full of conflict and strife, in a real place, with real people who are not always perfect or nice.

It was into this world, our world, that Life in all its fullness came on that first Christmas. It was in the real world that the angels sang. It was to real men with all their sins and imperfections that a new star appeared. On this "Birthday of Life" we know beyond any doubt that, despite all the darkness of evil, despite our sins, we will never be able to say we are alone or that God is far away. NO! He is Emmanuel, God-with-us.

The wonderful story of Christmas (the Christ Child, the shepherds, the angels, Mary & Joseph, the manger, the Magi and all the other details) is all the more wonderful because it has changed the meaning of life forever. It is the source of our whole Western Civilization - not just in terms of art and music and drama but more fundamentally the birth of Jesus Christ is the source of the very idea of the dignity of the individual human person and the sanctity of human life.

But more importantly, from that moment on we can never claim that God is outside our lives and our world. We can never say that God doesn't know what it's like. He's not only in our world and has gone through all the evils of life and death but he has conquered them.

St. Mary of the Hills Council 13950



On November 26, 2023, Council #13950 exemplified Vicky Morris in the degrees of Charity, Unity and Fraternity. Pictured here are from the left, State Community director John Hundiak, SDRR Region 4 Paul Thorn, DD111 John Carry, Mr. Vicky Morris, Grand Knight Bob Szymanski, DD107 Alex Dominique and Financial Secretary Tom Kubacki.

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Programs = New Members

**From The State Treasurer
Charles McCuen, III**



My Brother Knights and Ladies

Pam and I hope you and your families had a very merry and fun-filled Christmas. I know in the McCuen household Christmas is a time of the year where we can catch up with family members who we don't see on a regular basis and to appreciate the time spent with those who we do see all year long. While visiting we share stories and memories of our parents and grandparents that we hope our kids continue to pass down to future McCuen generations. For example, last year we learned that on my mom's side of the family tree that one of our great-great uncles was an Archbishop in Austria and that my great great grandmother was from Scotland, go figure.

Normally I always use this article to share with my Knights family the awesome things that happened to my McCuen family. Jessica, our oldest daughter turned 43. She loves her life as a Vet Tech in the windy city, Chicago. Our daughter Trisha married Greg, the lobster" of her life in September. This addition to our family added another fantastic element to our ever-growing family. Our son Charles retired from the Army as a Sargent. He and Jessica along with our two grandchildren, Inara and Boyd love their life in Eaton Rapids. Our youngest, Kayla is embracing her life as a nanny while keeping her mom and dad company! These are just a few highlights of our McCuen history for 2023.

As I reflect on the McCuen history of 2023, the last few months were not what we expected with my medical issues becoming a major event. Thanks not only to the medical staff at Corewell Grosse Pointe but for all your prayers and Gods intercession I pulled through without any life-threatening issues. I assume God has more for me to accomplish in this life. Honestly, one of the hardest adjustments I've had to make is taking medications daily and a new heart healthy diet. You ALL know I love my BACON.

As my family and I navigate through this medical event I've come to realize the importance of Time . As my friend, Paul Palka says "Charlie, you just went from thinking you were immortal to realizing you are a mortal" Time has become a commodity not to be traded or squandered on meaningless issues or nuisances. I feel lucky to have more of it and I am trying to figure out how not to waste it. Time now to stop putting off things that I enjoy. Time to express my feelings to my wife Pam for all she does for me and our family. (That I have taken for granted). Time to tell my children and grandchildren how much I love them. I want to spend more time with both my maternal and fraternal family. Time to take care of myself both physically and spiritually. Time to tell you all how much I appreciate your support and prayers. Take it from me, don't waste your time. Do those things that are most important to you now while you still have time. On a side note I never realized how important sleep was, so I really do enjoy a nap now and then.

McCuen Speaking of time...it's that time of year again...Convention on Mackinac Island. As soon as you receive your Convention Room Form you need to make time to complete it and return it ASAP. I can forecast that this year being an election year attendance will be high and rooms will be at a premium. Those who return their forms first get first crack at a premium room. Remember there are no bad rooms on Mackinac Island, just some are better than others and we use every room available including those overlooking the stable and the dumpster! So, get those forms in!

Don't forget to take the time to invite family, friends, and neighbors to join our order. Who knows when you will get another chance to ask. I have enjoyed being your State Treasurer for the last year and a half and look forward to finishing the last 6 months strong with hopes of continuing on as your State Officer. We hope you have a prosperous New Year with lots of time to enjoy it with your families.

Vivat Jesus

Charlie McCuen, State Treasurer

**From The State Membership Director
Richard Shelt**

Brother Knights,

People are asking, "Who is this guy, Richard Shelt?" Well, let me tell you a little bit about myself. While most people dream of becoming a president, a fireman, or an architect, I had a different dream; I wanted to graduate high school and move to an exotic country. But life had other plans for me.

Upon graduating, I did move, although not too far away. I landed a fantastic job and, to my surprise, I met a wonderful young lady and fell head-over-heels in love. The only catch was that she was Catholic and I had no clue about Catholicism.

But you know what? Four amazing things happened early on in my life. I not only had a great job and got married to an incredible woman, but I also became Catholic upon receiving the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. Soon afterward, I joined the Knights of Columbus. As time went on, my family began to grow and I was ultimately blessed with two beautiful children. Years later, our family was blessed with the addition of three even more beautiful grandchildren.

While my kids were growing up, I started getting involved in the Knights of Columbus with Fr. Patrick O'Kelley Council #3860 in Dearborn, and I especially enjoyed participating in exemplifications. I went through the ranks, serving as Grand Knight from 1988 to 1990, and then as FS for a whopping 26 years.

Fast forward to 2022 when I was honored to be appointed as State Deputy Regional Representative by State Deputy Christopher A. Kolomjec. It was an incredible experience, especially working alongside State Membership Director James Escott.

Unfortunately, due to health reasons, Jim has recently had to step down as SMD. The State Deputy encouraged me to accept the position for the balance of this fraternal year. I prayed about it, all the while hoping someone else might step up. But when Christopher asked me a second time, I simply could not bring myself to say "no".

So here I am (as a fellow knight once said) diving headfirst into the deep end of the pool. It's been a month and a week into this assignment and I've been thinking about what I want to achieve for this amazing jurisdiction.

First and foremost, I want to dedicate the next six months to following in the footsteps of Jim Escott and continuing his incredible efforts. I believe that together, we can take the Order to new heights and keep growing our Michigan jurisdiction. While I appreciate the hard work of all the councils, I also think it's important to focus on the travel exemplification teams and put some extra effort into them.

Secondly, I want to emphasize that if you are ever in need of assistance, please don't hesitate to reach out to your District Deputy, State Deputy Regional Representative, or even to me. I am always here and more than willing to lend a helping hand.

Lastly, let us recognize that recruitment is not a "chore" to achieve numbers nor quotas nor awards...recruitment into our Order is vital to continue nourishing the Body that is our Holy Catholic Church. Recruiting is an offer to grow the Faith among the men we see in the pews every Sunday and, by extension, to their families. This invitation is mutually beneficial to them and to ourselves on our respective spiritual journeys.

Let's make this fraternal journey an exciting and fruitful one for everyone involved!

Richard Shelt

State Membership Director

734-812-0645

r.shelt@mikofc.org

FAITH AND FAMILY FIRST

**From The State Program Director
Paul Palka**

Brothers & Sisters,

As we end the 1st half of the 2023/24 Fraternal year our programs are alive & growing. Working together we are doing the work of the Order in amazing ways!

Every category of programs; Faith, Family, Community and Life, we are helping our State become stronger.

Working together we accomplish more... whether its Councils, Dioceses of the entire State pulling together we are excelling at programs!

- In October, we hosted our first Cross Catholic Outreach Food Packing event at Holy Family Parish in Novi. With the assistance of Holy Family Council #11811 and the leadership of Garret Kelenske we packed over 60,000 meals. While 54,000 meals were sent to a needy country, 6,000 meals stayed right here at home having been donated to local food pantries who help local families who are experiencing food insecurities. Thank You to all who gave of their talent and treasure to make this event a success. A big thank you to Holy Family Council #11811 for hosting our inaugural event!
- On November 8th the first Michigan March for Life in Lansing took place. Our State Life Director Ed Strach and his wife Lynn worked with Michigan Right to Life to ensure the event was a success. Many hours of planning took place from promoting the event to our members, gaining permits, organizing bus arrival and parking, coordinating volunteers needed to keep everyone safe and leading the March. Archbishop Vigneron along with Bishops from every diocese in Michigan started our day with Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral in Lansing. Despite the cold and rainy day over 5,000 people were in attendance including a representative from the Supreme Council, Tim Soccochia the Vice President of Public Policy. On the steps of our Capital our Worthy State Deputy Chris Kolomjec lead all in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance. Thank you to all who participated in showing we are the Pro-life generation.
- In August, at the Supreme Convention Michigan was awarded the International Award for Life recognizing our commitment to life from conception to natural death. In September, many attended the first Heart of Christ Gala to support the center in Detroit. On a sunny November afternoon Knights and their families were invited to tour the Heart of Christ Clinic to see firsthand all the services that will be offered at the Clinic. At the Winter Leadership meeting, under the direction of our First Lady Julie Kolomjec, we had a highly successful diaper & wipe drive to benefit the Heart of Christ Clinic. Thank You to all the councils who support Life.
- We continue to be dedicated supporters of the Communities in which we live and raise our families. State Community Director John Hundiak along with many volunteers held the State Soccer Challenge on October 7th at Sacred Heart Parish in Grand Rapids. Congratulations to all our winners at the council and diocesan level. A special congratulations to our top Goal leaders, Gloria Bilic age 10 with a score of 220 and Patrick Cichno age 10 with a score of 290.
We are looking forward to completing even more programs in the second half of the Fraternal year!
- Faith: Lent is a perfect time to support the RSVP program which supports our seminarians and postulate. The Silver Rose Icon will be back in Michigan this Spring. If you have not had the opportunity to attend Mass when the Icon is present, please make a point of doing so this year. See Bob Bagley's article for more information.

Continued on page 5

Ladies Corner

Dear Ladies,

Thank you to all the ladies who attended the Winter Leadership Meeting held at the Amway Grand Hotel on December 8th-9th. We were fortunate to have Msgr. Kosanke and Dr. Lisa Knysz speak at our Ladies Program about the Heart of Christ Clinic that just recently opened in Detroit. The clinic focuses on providing women with authentic Catholic care and serves pregnant mothers, individuals and families of all socioeconomic backgrounds, insured and uninsured, with high-quality care for the whole person – physical, emotional and spiritual. A very special thank you to everyone who donated so generously to the clinic at the Winter Meeting - whether it was diapers, wipes or monetary donations. The clinic was overwhelmed, once again, with our member's generosity.

As you read this, the holidays are already past. It seems like before we know it they are here and gone. The ladies of the Board love the holiday season, spending time with our family and friends. It brings back so many wonderful memories of making Christmas and shortbread cookies and decorating them with our children. They are all grown now but those wonderful memories always make us smile and reminisce.

And at a blink of our eyes it is now 2024. Where has the time gone? Just five months from now we will all be back on Mackinac Island for the 2024 State Convention at the Grand Hotel. Believe it or not, planning is already taking place. This is an election year so we are anticipating an increased number of attendees. It is never too early to start thinking about the annual "Ladies Charity Raffle". If you are able to donate an item or want to help in some other way, please sign up with Christy Miron, the State Advocate's wife, by emailing her at c.miron@mikofc.org.

The ladies of the Board want to thank all the ladies for supporting the men in their involvement with the Knights. We hope that you, too, will be involved.

We would like to wish you all a healthy and happy 2024 and we look forward to seeing you in the near future.

God Bless,

Julie, Mandy, Pam, Christy, Kara and Karen

St. Patrick White Lake Council 13319 – Exemplification



On November 26, 2023, St. Patrick White Lake Council 13319 held an exemplification for new members at St. Patrick Catholic Church. We welcome Matthew Barron, Chas Ciaramitaro, Greg Conley, Peter Habsburg, Chris Smith and Dominic Weber to our Council!

Vocation Golf Outing

Mason Council #9182 held its Annual Vocational Golf Outing. This year the council introduced a T-Shirt with 12 Sponsors who donated \$500 to have their name on the T-Shirt. These shirts were given to the 70 golfers we had, plus others were sold to individuals. When the final figures were calculated, the council made \$18,400 on the Golf Outing. The council was able to help 27 Seminarians with their Education Expenses. With these figures from 2023, Mason Council has been supporting Seminarians since 1987 for a total of \$148,500 over the years.

**From The State Program Director
Paul Palka**

- **Family:** We are encouraged as Knights to build our family. We have often heard that a family that prays together stays together. Our parishes need us to bring the faithful back to the church. Good Friday Services are an excellent time to remind those who may be facing religious uncertainty why their faith life and they themselves are important. See Bill Corey's article for more information.
- **Community:** As the weather outside is frightful we have many activities for our children to participate in that do not involve their cell phones and screen time. These activities include the Free Throw competition, Spelling Bee, and Hockey Challenges. See John article for more information.
- **Life:** The March for Life in Washington, DC will take place on January 19th, 2024. Please plan to join your parish or Diocese in attending the Nation's largest March. Although Roe vs. Wade was overturned our support is even more critical as we support and always CHOOSE LIFE! See Ed Strach's article for more information.
- **Cross Catholic Outreach Food Packing Events.** In the next 6 months we will be hosting events in Lansing, Grand Rapids/Kalamazoo, and the East side of Detroit. See Garret Kelense's article for more information.

While we do programs not for recognition but to provide help to others, sharing our great programs is a way to help even more people. Perhaps sharing how successful your council/district program was will encourage another council/district to duplicate it in their backyard. In July at our Diocesan Meetings, we rolled out a new opportunity for councils to get assistance in completing Program and Family of the Year submission books. As part of this opportunity councils were encouraged to start working on their submissions early in the year and providing a sample to their Diocesan Program Director and District Deputies to be brought to the Winter Leadership Meeting. At that time, an evaluation sheet would be done giving directions to councils on ways to improve their books for submission for the Awards given at the Convention in May. Thank You to all the councils who participated in this Mid-Year submission opportunity. If there are any councils who were not able to submit but would like some feedback prior to their final submission, please contact the State Director that your program involves or myself (p.palka@mikofc.org) by February 15th.

We kick off the 2nd half of the 2023/2024 fraternal year with our Diocesan Meetings which will be attended by our Diocesan Bishops. Please plan to attend and bring as many officers and members as possible to hear the words from our religious leaders, and information on how to finish the year strong!

As you know we have a new State Membership Director Richard Shelt. Richard is a former Conferring Officer and most recently the SDRR for the West side of Detroit. Richard has taken on the role and has dedicated the year to Jim Escott who is working through health issues. Please do your best to encourage Richard in his new endeavor as State Membership Director and do Jim proud!

A special thank you to Michael Kozakiewicz for his promotion of Fraternal Activities through the year which include our Annual State Campout in August, Lion Game last September, the Grand Rapids Griffins in December and the upcoming Detroit Red Wing game on April 7th. He has earned his title of Fraternal Director of Fun!

As always, I appreciate all you and your Councils do to support our community, our church, and the Order! Margaret & I wish you a Happy and Healthy New Year!

Paul Palka
State Program Director

Programs = New Members

**State Faith Director
Bob Bagley**

Brothers and Sisters

We have all witnessed and experienced a great decline in people attending Mass, shortage of Clergy, churches being closed, the Shepherds being required to take care of multiple parishes not allowing the Flock to know their Shepherd and the Shepherd not to know their Flock; as well as the overall lack of respect and Reverence for our Lord.

You have all heard me speak about receiving the Holy Eucharist on the tongue as opposed to the hands. The parishioners in the United States did not receive our Lord in their hands until the 1970's. To be exact, Communion in the hand was granted by the Holy See on June 17, 1977. Kneeling for Communion stopped in the 1960's, Communion Rails were removed as well as some kneelers in the pews. These trends came from a mistaken theology that lost the sense of Christ's Real Presence in the Holy Eucharist.

Through my Conversion, I know without any doubt that the Holy Eucharist IS Christ Himself. On our Pilgrimage to Italy, I was able to see the Miracle of Lanciano, where the Eucharist when consecrated, became the Heart tissue and Blood of Christ. We were allowed to get very close to Him, and we all dropped to our knees. Christ is there with us and IS the Eucharist at every Communion we receive. We MUST show Him respect and Reverence.

Through our travels across the United States and Canada, evangelizing through Knights on Bikes, I have had the opportunity to talk and pray with many Clergy. They all agree that our church is going through severe Spiritual Warfare. We are being attacked not only from outside forces but from inside forces as well. We have Clergy that have given homilies and in return parishioners have written letters complaining about the homilies to the hierarchy of the Church that eventually results in the Priest being removed as pastor. The Devil is thrilled with this result because it leaves the Flock unprotected.

Maybe these homilies upset the person because it brings to light their sin. Instead of lashing out at the Shepherd, maybe meditate on what upsets you and attend reconciliation. These homilies are not done to antagonise but out of Love, so that you can reconcile and at the time we meet Christ, He will say I know you instead of I do not know you. Who are we to cause harm to the one that GOD has called to be our Shepherd. We need our Shepherds, without our Shepherds the wolves will devour us.

In conclusion my Brothers and Sisters, I too am not saying these things to upset, but saying them out of Love. Love for my Faith, Love for my Church, Love for you my Brothers and Sisters, and above all, Love for Christ. I am not a Theologian, a member of the Clergy, I am a sinner that asks GOD for His Mercy everyday in hopes that I may be welcomed and hear Him say, I know you. Ask your Priests and Bishops to bring Communion Rails and kneelers back into our Church so that we may receive kneeling, if physically capable, to show respect and Reverence for who is in front of us. Please consider receiving our Lord on the tongue from the only consecrated hands of the one that becomes Persona Christi at the Mass.

Love and Pray for each other!

Bob Bagley
State Faith Director

"Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts."

STATE DEPUTY'S MEMBERSHIP TRIBUTE BANQUET

Saturday, February 24, 2024
Zuccaro's Banquets & Catering
46601 Gratiot Ave.
Chesterfield Twp., Michigan 48051
Social Hour Starts at 5pm
Dinner at 6:15pm with Program to follow
\$35.00 per person

Reservations are available through the Michigan State Council Office on a first come, first served basis. A check or money order must accompany all reservation requests.

All checks payable to the Michigan State Council/memo line—Tribute Banquet Tickets.

No tickets will be sold at the door. **ADMITTANCE BY RESERVATION ONLY.**

Gaylord Traveling Degree Team exemplifies eight new members including an Archbishop!
By: Patrick Oliver



On Friday September 29th, a Charity, Unity, Fraternity Exemplification was held at a hunting lodge outside Hillman. Eight new members joined the Order, including Most Reverend Archbishop Paul Russell - Papal Nuncio! Archbishop Russell grew up in Alpena and happened to be visiting with the campers.

Present at the exemplification were State Ceremonials Director Gene Murawski, Gaylord SDRR Joel Kendzorski, District Deputies James Kendzorski/District 201 and Dave Powierski/District 209 along with members of the Posen and Hillman councils.

Prior to the exemplification, a delicious chicken and pork barbecue was prepared and enjoyed by all!

"Real change, enduring change, happens one step at a time."

OUR TRAVELING EXEMPLIFICATIONS HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL

With 24 traveling team exemplifications scheduled so far for the 2023-24 fiscal year and more are coming. The exemplifications that we have done have been very impressive and well appreciated by the new 3rd degree knights, members and guests who were present. The new members will get the experience of the presentation done live and in person and they will receive the presentation of the rosary. Plus, as a bonus they will receive the Memorable Coin if they go through the Traveling Team Exemplification. Most of these exemplifications were done after a Mass and followed by a dinner. Oh yes, the dinner is paid for by the State Deputy.

I have certified my 5th exemplification team in Sault Ste Marie, working on one more. I know that many councils have their own great exemplification teams, but we also have councils that do not have any staff. Why not ask for one of our Traveling Exemplification Staff to have a live exemplification rather than using the video? We all know that the first impression of a new member is very important.

I have attached pictures of 2 Exemplification done by our Traveling Teams. As you can see they were very successful. Why don't you sponsor one in your District or Council?

If you know of any individual or a staff that wants to become part of one of these Traveling Teams, give me a call at 517-256-7289. It is a lot of fun and you get the satisfaction of teaching the lessons on what the Knights of Columbus stand for.

I hope that we have many more of these great exemplifications scheduled for the next months. Just go online, get the request form and send me the request. Then we will be honored to do the exemplification for you. My staffs are hungry to work and waiting for a call from me..



St. Patrick White Lake Council 13319
Veteran and First Responder Appreciation



On November 11th (Veterans Day), St. Patrick White Lake Council 13319 hosted a Veteran and First Responder appreciation dinner. Our 4th degree Fr John A Hardon SJ assembly 3099 was the sponsor.

The Truth and Our Drive

These past few months have provided a glimpse of the truths behind the passage of Proposal 3 (the Abortion initiative) as well as several ways our *drive* as a pro-life leader is necessary to protect the unborn and terminally ill or aging. Several bills under the Reproductive Health Act (RHA), many of which have been signed or on their way for final approval, include the following (the *truth*):

- Removes the state prohibition on the late-term partial-birth abortion procedure, and overturns state law protecting people from paying for others' elective abortions with their health plan premiums
- Minimal to no transparency or accountability for abortion clinics due to the removal of reporting requirements, including for instances of complications that occur during an abortion.
- Aborted children merely discarded in waste containers due to a repeal of requirements to dispose of fetal remains safely and humanely.
- More abortions from college-age women after a policy that prohibits universities and colleges from referring students for abortions was repealed from the Pregnant and Parenting Student Services Act.

With the *truth* out that these actions were being formulated by our state legislature, our *drive* to protect the unborn continued to move forward like never before.

On Wednesday, November 8th, the MI March for Life took place at the State Capitol where thousands attended to show their support for the defense of life and marking the one-year anniversary of the passage of Proposal 3. Amongst those in attendance included Knights from around the state who either participated in the March or volunteered to assist with bus and parking logistics. Our volunteers did an outstanding job and are commended for their efforts.

"There are those who would like to 'fight like hell,'" said Bishop Earl Boyea in



his homily during Holy Mass at a packed Saint Mary Cathedral preceding the March for Life. He continued, "In fact, there is a real hellishness whenever any innocent life is taken. There is a real hellishness when our state and our community become a destination for such evil purposes. There is a real hellishness when joy and celebration mark the victory of darkness over light. There is a real hellishness when the vast majority of our population sees no problem in all of this. What then are we to do? My sisters and brothers, we must fight like heaven!"

Thank you to our bishops that support our Drive who attended the Holy Mass. The principal celebrant of the Mass was Archbishop Allen Vigneron of Detroit. Bishop Boyea was among dozens of clerics concelebrating including Bishop David Walkowiak of Grand Rapids; Bishop Jeffrey Walsh of Gaylord; Bishop Edward Lohse of Kalamazoo; and Auxiliary Bishops Gerard Battersby and Robert Fisher of Detroit.

State Deputy Chris Kolomjec led the pledge of allegiance and Bishop Earl Boyea led us in an opening prayer. The message from the main speakers was clear to continue our efforts to defend the unborn, support local pregnancy resource centers and push for legislative actions that challenge RHA laws being put in place. We as Catholics and Knights of Columbus must also continue our *drive* to support pregnancy centers, mothers & fathers, and the unborn.

Special thanks to St. Mary Cathedral Council #11694, Lansing and District Deputy Mark Stenske, for their efforts and providing a home base for a pre-March meeting and lunch for all volunteers who braved the early morning inclement weather.

Many of the 80 plus buses that made their way to the State Capitol for the March were funded by Knights of Columbus councils. Thank you for this support. Also, thank you, each of the councils that assisted in promoting the March at their local parishes.

The evening before the March and within miles of the State Capitol, the 90th Ultrasound dedication took place at Cristo Rey Community Center a few miles from the start of the March. Fr. Gordon Riegle, pastor at St. Thomas Aquinas Parish and St. John Church led us in opening prayers and Bishop Earl Boyea blessed the Ultrasound unit. This event illustrated the Drive of District Deputy Kevin Duffy and St. Martha Council #10006, Okemos to provide a life saving device for the Lansing area.

The Mobile Medical Unit was dedicated and blessed on Saturday, October 28th at the Pregnancy Help Clinic in Brighton. This marked the 89th Ultrasound dedication in the state with a mobile unit that will initially serve the Lansing and Ann Arbor area. Total funds raised for the mobile unit were \$172,526 and an additional \$44,193 from Supreme Council for the Ultrasound unit. Congratulations to Fr. John R. Day Council #2659, Howell for their Drive in making this mobile unit a reality.

Across the state the Aid & Support After Pregnancy (ASAP) program continues to provide councils and assemblies the opportunity to support local pregnancy centers and maturity homes with the donations and supplies so vital for these centers and mothers.



Across the state the Aid & Support After Pregnancy (ASAP) program continues to provide councils and assemblies the opportunity to support local pregnancy centers and maturity homes with the donations and supplies so vital for these centers and mothers.

A location where the ASAP program has played a significant role is the Heart of Christ Clinic in southwest Detroit. An open house was recently held for Knights and councils to give them a firsthand look at the progress made at the clinic. With the grand opening of the clinic to take place January 2024, we see a further testament of our *drive*.

Thank you to all those who attended the Heart of Christ Clinic open house on November 18th and brought donations of baby diapers and wipes. Let's continue our support for Heart of Christ Clinic and help move this center's model to also become a reality in each of the dioceses in the state. It's clear that as we bring out the *truth* of our state legislature's actions and continue our *drive* for the sanctity of Life that we can and will bring hope and change the hearts and minds of those we meet.

Faith & Family for Life!

Ed & Lynn Strach
Pro-Life Chair Couple

Sacred Heart of the Hills Council 8659 Family Matters

Now that Christmas is over and a new year starting, It's time to continue moving ahead with family activities and projects.

The first thing is the Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest. The submissions need to be to the Diocesan Program Directors (the actual posters, not electronically) by January 15, 2024.

Secondly, thank you to the councils that are submitting their Families of the Month. Please remember to submit them using form #10784 (which is filled out electronically) and make sure to CC me (w.corey@mikofc.org) when submitting the forms to Supreme and the State. If you are having issues with filling out for #10784, Supreme has a training video on how to complete the form online. For the Councils that aren't doing Family of the month, why? Don't we all have families that work hard for our Parishes, our Councils, and our communities?

Next, please continue to work on your Family of the year submissions. Honor your hardworking families by maybe being selected for the Family of the Year for the state and be able to attend the convention or maybe the International Family of the Year for Supreme.

Lastly, if you are looking for some ideas for family activities for your councils, in Supremes Columbia magazine, there is a page with what other councils are doing across the order. Check it out.

Bill Corey

State Family Director

Cell (313) 618-7645, w.corey@mikofc.org

FR. THOMAS R. CAREY COUNCIL 4764

COATS FOR KIDS

As part of the Knights of Columbus national drive for "Coats for Kids," Lake Orion Council 4764 donated 72 coats to "Operation Warm." The coats will be distributed to families in need throughout Northern Oakland County. Council 4764 members have participated in the Coats for Kids project for the past several years.



Project Chairman PGK Ron Hines, second from left, and his team presented coats to local "Operation Warm" in Lake Orion

Sacred Heart of the Hills Council 8659



On November 7, 2023, during their monthly business meeting, Council #8659 received their Double Star Award. Pictured here are DD111 John Carry and Grand Knight Jayson Graves. This is their second year to receive the Double Star award thanks Sacred Heart of the Hills Council 8659 to their members and Membership Director, Jim Johnson.

Community Programs are in Full Swing.

As the first half of the Fraternal Year winds down, Community programs are in full swing. First of all, on October 7, 2023, the State Soccer Championships were held in Grand Rapids. Although the number of competitors were down from last year, there were seven champions from three dioceses. These champions have been submitted to Supreme for consideration for the International Awards.

The biggest effort throughout the first half of the year was the Coats For Kids program. This year, Councils have put forth an outstanding effort for this program.

For this fraternal year (2023-2024), \$139,615 was raised. That is a 250% increase over last year! With the Supreme BOGO program, we purchased 2,122 cases (25,464 coats) and distributed throughout Michigan.

Over the last two fraternal years, our Councils raised \$194,548 for the purchase of coats. Through the Supreme BOGO program, Michigan was able to purchase \$389,096 worth of coats. That translates into 35,356 coats for the Kids in Michigan.

One big reason for the success this past year is the increased participation by the councils. On a District level, 67% of the Districts participated. In Detroit – 94% of the districts participated. In Grand Rapids - 88% of the districts participated. In Marquette – 63% of the districts participated.

Another reason is the creativity of the councils to raise funds for the Coats for Kids program. Special recognition goes to Notre Dame Council 3021 of Detroit for raising \$10,731!

Casey Bear program continues to be a success. There was a pricing change this year but it has not impacted the rate of distribution of bears. Since the increase, 13 cases or 312 Casey Bears have been purchased by the councils for distribution. Please consider participating in this worthy program.

Upcoming events include the Essay Contest. Diocesan Level winners are due no later than January 6, 2024. Email the winners to j.hundiak@mikofc.org. All submissions must be electronic. Please do not snail mail them. The State Spelling Bee will be held on March 9, 2024 in Essexville. Please have your local competitions done and submit winners to your Diocesan Program Director. The State Free Throw Contest will be on March 17, 2024 in Mt. Pleasant. Again, please have your local competitions done and submit winners to your Diocesan Program Director.

Lastly, DO NOT FORGET TO RECRUIT at all of you Community programs.

Have a Blessed Christmas and a Great New Year!

John Hundiak

State Community Director

WELCOME INTERNATIONAL INDUCTEES



Grand Knight Tom Tiffany and Exemplification team members welcome new members

At a recent Council 4764 Exemplification held at Christ The Redeemer Church, Lake Orion, three of the four inducted were born in India, Mexico, and Brazil.

Your Take 10 for Charity Gift is So Important

Dear Brothers and Ladies,

Joyce and I hope that you had a Merry Christmas with friends and family. May we have the Peace of Christmas this day and every day of the coming year.

As we begin the new calendar year, you and I and members of the Knights of Columbus throughout Michigan are receiving our annual dues notice from their council's Financial Secretary. Included with your dues notice is a yellow slip of paper. This slip includes a short description of the Take 10 for Charity program and a partial list of the worthy charitable works that the Take 10 for Charity program helps the State Council support. In the Spirit of Charity, the first principle of our order, I am asking you to help the Take 10 for Charity Program so it can continue to grow as a State Council resource for those in need.

"Let us look once more to Jesus, who received everything from the hands of the Father, yet did not keep this treasure for himself..."

-Pope Francis

Below is a sample of the yellow slip that you should have received in your dues. If the yellow slip is missing this will give you the information on the program and some of the charitable donations that the program helps and how to contribute.

Since the program's inception in 1977, this program has grown as a main resource of charitable funds for the State Council. The State Council receives

many requests all year long, and many of these requests are for an amount that a single local council could not possibly meet.

"When we think of the immense numbers of the poor in our midst, the message of today's Gospel is clear: let us not bury the wealth of the Lord! Let us spread the wealth of charity, share our bread and multiply love!"

-Pope Francis

To help we ask each Brother Knight for a \$10 contribution submitted with their dues payment. In turn your Financial Secretary will collect the members' individual donations and submit them to Barry Borsenik, our State Secretary. In Unity, with over 55,000 Brother Knights in Michigan, this would give the State Council approximately \$570,000 in charitable funds to distribute. For the 2022-2023 Fraternal Year, due to your generous support, the Take 10 for Charity Program generated over \$150,000.00. The State Officers and I cannot thank you enough.

"We have received from the Lord the gift of his love and we are called to become a gift for others. The love with which Jesus cared for us, the balm of his mercy, the compassion with which he tended our wounds, the flame of the Spirit by which he filled our hearts with joy and hope – all these are treasures that we cannot simply keep to ourselves"

-Pope Francis

To meet the ongoing demands in charitable needs, we are again asking you to look at your dues notice, pay your dues, and add that donation to Take 10 for Charity. Your \$10 may seem relatively small, but just like a single drop of rain seems relatively small in a thunderstorm, that \$10, with 55,000 similar donations, will help us help those in need.

To recap:

- Included with your dues notice is a yellow slip detailing the Take 10 for Charity program
- Please add \$10.00 to your dues amount, or make a separate \$10.00 donation, and mail to your Financial Secretary. Please note on your check that the \$10.00 is for the Take 10 for Charity program
- If you did not receive a yellow slip a copy is above for your information. You may contact your Financial Secretary for an original yellow slip as well

"Let us pray that each of us according to the gift we received and the mission entrusted to us, may strive "to make charity bear fruit" and draw near to some poor person."

-Pope Francis

Thank you in advance for your prayers and for your contribution. Together let's make our \$10 donation a part of the thunderstorm that creates a new record of giving for this year.

Thomas M. Wegener, PSD, FSD
Michigan Charities State Director

MICHIGAN STATE COUNCIL, KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Dear Brother Knight:

In the spirit of charity, the first principle of our order, we ask you to help the Take 10 for Charity Program of the Michigan Charities Fund so it can continue to grow as a State Council resource for those in need.

Since its inception in 1977, the Take 10 for Charity Program, now the Take 10 for Charity Program of the Michigan Charities Fund has been able to help many charities. The following are just some of them.

Wesleyan & DeWitt	Pop Beer
Welfare Storage Association	Protect Life of Michigan
Catholic Education	RTS Local Agencies
Catholic High School League	Right to Life Michigan Education Fund
Catholic Publications	Shared Pregnancy Crisis Center
Catholic Radio	Special Day Dinner Camp
Center for Women	St. Joseph's Medical Ward
Family Devotion / All Dioceses	St. Francis Cancer Clinic
Good House	St. Francis Retreat Center
Livingston County Life-Saved Initiative	St. Vincent Home - Lansing
December Month Conferences	Solaris County Center
West Holy Family Parish	UP Catholic Movement

Brother Knights, a \$10 contribution by each of the approximately 55,000 Michigan Knights would give the Michigan Charities Fund \$550,000 to distribute. Just one of the greatest joys of our Faith is to give to those in need.

We need your support. Please include \$10 or more with your dues payment or send a separate check payable to your local council. Please, Take 10 for Charity Program or your council name. Your local Financial Secretary will send the total Take 10 for Charity Program contributions to the State Secretary.

Working together as a team of 55,000 members can make a difference in the lives of those who truly need us. Please do what you can.

We thank you in advance for your help to others. What about?

TAKE "10" FOR CHARITY PROGRAM
MICHIGAN CHARITIES FUND COMMITTEE

Au Lac Council 10724 Youth of the Month - December 2023



Photo (L-R): Patrick Bohr (Grand Knight); Lauren Demick; Fr. Joseph Esper (Pastor - Immaculate Conception Parish)

Congratulations to Lauren Demick for being chosen as our Au Lac Council Youth of the Month for December! Lauren is the daughter of Ron and Michelle Demick and is in 8th grade at Anchor Bay Middle School North. She attends many Youth Group service activities, including summer projects such as grounds beautification. She has joined the Youth Group Bible Study in addition to attending regular Faith formation sessions. She and her family can usually be seen at the 10:00 Mass on Sundays. We thank Lauren for sharing her faith and service to our parish!

"Everyone has inside of him a piece of good news. The good news is that you don't know how great you can be! How much you can love! What you can accomplish! And what your potential is!"

— Anne Frank



Merry Christmas! Impacting Lives at Holy Cross Services through Your Generosity: A Message from our President & CEO



Dear Friends,

As we embrace the joyful spirit of Christmas, I am filled with immense gratitude for your unwavering support towards Holy Cross Services. Your kindness and generosity profoundly impact the lives of those we serve, creating tangible change and hope during this festive season.

This holiday season marks a time when your donations become the guiding light for our mission to provide shelter, care, and a sense of belonging to some of the most vulnerable individuals, children and families in our community.

As we celebrate the spirit of giving this Christmas, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to the Knights of Columbus for your recent donation of \$1,000.00 generously supporting the New Hope Community Center. Your support is a testament to the difference we can make when we join hands for a common cause. Your generosity truly transforms lives and brings hope to those in need.

This Christmas, let us remember the true spirit of the season by sharing our blessings with those who need it the most. Your support not only provides physical shelter but also offers hope and a renewed sense of purpose to the individuals we serve.

As 2023 approaches its culmination, I kindly invite you to consider making a year-end gift. Your contributions, regardless of size, play a significant role in our mission to provide shelter, care and a sense of belonging to those most in need. Your year-end donation can be made online at www.holycrossservices.org/donate or by simply scanning the QR code. Your continued support brings us closer to ensuring that those in need find comfort and stability.

Thank you for being a beacon of hope in the lives of so many. Your compassionate spirit embodies the true essence of Christmas.

Merry Christmas and warmest wishes,

Ryan J. Kunzelman

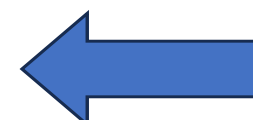
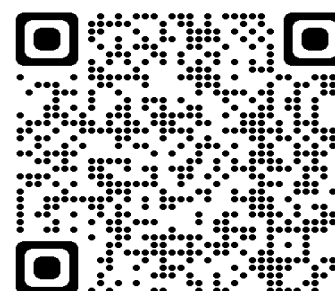
Ryan J. Kunzelman
President and CEO, Holy Cross Services



Our 2024 Raffle Calendars are now available!

Visit:

holycrossservices.com/2024-calendar or scan the QR Code below to get your calendar and enter for a chance to win our raffle!



Scan QR Code to donate or visit:
holycrossservices.org/donate/

Introducing: Fr Jarrod Dillion, Director of Spirituality at Holy Cross Services

Recently, I was invited, alongside our President & CEO Ryan Kunzelman, to join your leadership meeting held in Grand Rapids. The hospitality was exceptional. Thank you for having us.

I want to thank everyone that I met for being so positive and welcoming. My prayer this Christmas season is for all of the Knights of Columbus in Michigan and for their families: I pray that the goodwill that was once shared amongst our organizations may continue beyond the Christmas and many more New Years to come.

I remain available to visit your councils to get to know you. If you have any questions about Holy Cross Services, or, want to know more about our services or how you can help, please do not hesitate to contact me.

May the Virgin Mary bless each of you with her Son this Christmas Day. May she be a powerful intercessor for you and your family.

From mine to yours Merry Christmas,

Fr. Jarrod Dillon,
Director of Spirituality at Holy Cross Services
517-614-4234 / Jdillon@hccsnet.org

**Exciting Funding Updates at Holy Cross Services**

At Holy Cross Services, we're thrilled to share some remarkable news regarding recent grants that will significantly impact our programs and facilities. These funds are crucial steps in our commitment to enhancing our services and providing better support to those in need within our community.

MI Impact Grant: Transforming Lives for Mid-Michigan Youth

We are elated to announce that Holy Cross Services has been awarded a substantial grant of \$1.57 million through the MI Impact Grant program by the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity. This grant represents a significant opportunity for us to expand our services, specifically focusing on supporting young adults transitioning from the child welfare system or foster care in Mid-Michigan.

This grant will enable us to provide comprehensive support, including healthcare services, case management, access to basic needs, mental health counseling, and programs aimed at fostering independence and success.

Saginaw Common Trust - Charitable Grants from Huntington Bank: Facilitating Transformative Renovations

Additionally, Holy Cross Services has received a remarkable grant of \$100,000 from the Saginaw Common Trust - Charitable Grants through Huntington Bank. These funds will play a pivotal role in supporting renovations at The Queen of Angels Building, a move that marks a significant step forward in our efforts to improve our residential programs.

The renovations will create a more conducive and improved space, allowing us to continue providing high-quality care and support to those entrusted to our services. These grants represent our continued dedication to expanding our reach, improving our facilities, and ultimately making a positive difference in the lives of those we serve. We extend our heartfelt thanks to the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity, the Saginaw Common Trust, and Huntington Bank for their generous support.

Stay tuned for updates as we embark on these transformative projects, furthering our mission to empower individuals and strengthen our community. For more information and updates on Holy Cross Services' programs and initiatives, visit www.holycrossservices.org

St. Louis Center



St. Louis Center, a residential care facility for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) in Chelsea, MI, is pleased to announce significant leadership changes effective December 1, 2023. Fr. Satheesh Alphonse, SdC, will assume the role of Chief Executive Officer, succeeding Fr. Enzo Addari, SdC, who will transition to a supporting role.

Fr. Enzo Addari, a dedicated member of the Servants of Charity, has been instrumental in the growth and success of St. Louis Center since 1983. His commitment began in seminary when he chose to work with those with developmental disabilities. His journey brought him from Italy to the United States in 1977, where he earned a master's degree from Villanova University, eventually becoming Chief Executive Officer of the St. Louis Center in 2005. Under his leadership, St. Louis Center celebrated its 50th and 60th Anniversaries, expanded into St. Louis Guanella Village, and evolved into a pioneering model for comprehensive and integrated services for people with I/DD. Fr. Enzo's vision has made the Center a lighthouse of hope and a model replicated nationwide.

Fr. Satheesh Alphonse, also a member of the Servants of Charity, brings his own unique energy and charisma to the role. Originally from India, he is known

for his joyful spirit and commitment to spreading the Gospel. Fr. Satheesh began his journey at St. Louis Center in 2006, later serving at Pious Union in Grass Lake, and since 2018 as pastor of Our Lady of Fatima in Michigan Center. Fr. Satheesh's new role as CEO reflects his extensive service and community involvement. His leadership is warmly embraced by both the residents and staff of St. Louis Center, who are excited to welcome a familiar and respected figure into this pivotal role. Fr. Satheesh is well-positioned to lead the Center into the future, further enriching its legacy of innovation and compassionate care.

Reflecting on the transition, Fr. Enzo wrote the following letter:

Dear friends,

We know there is a time when we start a project and also a time when we need to transition the activities to other hands.

The last 18 years have been thriving years for St. Louis Center.

With the celebration of the 50th anniversary of St. Louis Center, a new future has taken place. The new world of providing services to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) has been duplicated in many areas of the country.

There are still many other projects to be accomplished and it is good that younger confreres with a lot of physical energy take over for the ongoing growth of the Center in such a way that the Center will continue to be a Lighthouse of Hope for so many families who always question "who will take care of my son/daughter, once I am gone?"

For the first year of the transition, I will still be around to give support to Fr. Satheesh who is the new CEO of St. Louis Center.

I want to thank all of you for the love, commitment, and support you have given me during the last 18 years. It has been because of you that I was able to serve the Center, its residents, and their families envisioning something new.

Please continue to be involved in proclaiming the dignity of the lives of the people entrusted to our care.

May God bless you,

Fr. Enzo Addari, SdC, Former CEO

Please visit the St. Louis Center website for more information or to submit a personal message to Fr. Enzo: stlouiscenter.org/ceo-transition/ scroll to the bottom of the page to send your message.

Au Lac Council 10724 Breakfast With Santa



Au Lac Council 10724 at Immaculate Conception Parish in Ira Township held their annual Breakfast With Santa on December 10th. A large turnout after both morning Masses enjoyed a breakfast cooked and served by the Knights and children of all ages got to see Santa Claus in person. Thank you to the brother Knights and other volunteers for making it a special day for everyone!



YES I wish to enroll in the Guild and to receive the newsletter. Name
 Address
 City/State/Country
 Please list below the names and addresses of any family or friend who might be interested in the Guild's work.
 Name
 Address City/State/Country Country
 Name
 Address City/State/

MONTHLY MASS FOR GUILD MEMBERS

Family of the Year Award State program Award

Each month your council committee will select one parish family that exhibits Christian family values and live them every day. Once a year each council selects one family from the previous months Family of the Month Award winners to represent the council as the submission from the parish to be considered for the State Family of the Year submitted by the State Board. The family is then recommended by the State Council to represent the State as the Family of the Year Submission. Submit one entry from all the submissions the International Family of the Year Board.

STEPS TO CREATING A SUCCESSFUL FAMILY OF THE YEAR STATE PROGRAM AWARD SUBMISSION

PLANNING:

To have a successful Family of the Year State Program Award submission is important to create a culture in your council where you recognize families who are worthy of the Family of the Month award. By this document each month what makes that month's particular family the Family of the Month it will help it much easier to nominate a family for Family of the Year. Successful completion of the FOMOT each month not only allows you to share this award with your council and parish, but it also lays the groundwork for the submission book necessary for submission for Family of the Year both on the state level and national.

All Family of the Year submissions should be submitted by the State Family Council and State Program Director both electronically and in paper format. The submission must include the form FOMOT.

YOUR SUBMISSION MUST HAVE:

1. Family of the Month Recognition
2. Eligibility
 - ✓ Must be a member in good standing to qualify for the State Family of the Year Award
3. Questions to ask regarding the Family of the Year Nominee
 - ✓ Is the family right sized?
 - ✓ Does the family spend quality time together?
 - ✓ Does the family attend weekly Mass together?
 - ✓ Does the family pray together outside of Mass?
 - ✓ Has the family made a significant contribution to the parish and diocesan community?
 - ✓ Does the family live in a model of Catholic family values?
4. Traditional Catholic Family Values
 - ✓ Does the family live a life of traditional Catholic values?
5. Pictures of the Family
 - ✓ Pictures of the family and extended family
 - ✓ Pictures of the family participating in activities for their parish and diocesan community
6. Letters of Commendation
7. Father's participation in the Knights of Columbus
 - ✓ Positions held for example Grand Knight, District Deputy, etc.
8. Family's participation in the Knights of Columbus
9. Family's involvement in the Church
10. Family's involvement in the Community

DO NOT SUBMIT THE FAMILY OF THE YEAR DIRECTLY TO SUPREME

NOTE: FOR GRAND KNIGHTS AND COUNCIL PR CHAIRMAN

In each issue of the Michigan Columbian we print the Current Knights of the Month as designated by the local councils in the State. These men deserve State wide recognition. We appreciate your help in keeping this information current. A copy of the names of the Knight of the Month need to be sent direct to: John Hundiak, FDM, State Council Community Director, 2439 Westwood Dr., Rochester Hills, MI 48306 *cky - council knight of year , send a copy of the names to the Michigan Columbian.

Knight of the Month**Lansing Council 788**

Lou Garbarino, Bob McDonald

Monroe Council 1266

Lewis Poupard, Robert Stefanski

Robert Morley

Jay Jondro, PGK, *cky

Shawn Piedmonte, PGK, *cky

Portland Council 2168

Jacob Lowe, David Simon

Daniel Lawless

Westphalia Council 2890

Richard Thelen, Logan Nurenberg

Colton Hengesbach

Utica Council 2950

Chris Boyer, Bob Quain

Pinconning Council 2986

Francis Sequin, Gerald Courier

Dennis Michalik

Warren Council 3848

Mike Garcia *cky

Southgate Council 3956

Omar Berrocal, Stephen Gall

Sean Roland

Manchester Council 4354

Mark Fernandez

New Baltimore Council 5981

Steven Wratford, Alex Gaedcke

Jerry Zarczynski, Joe Quesnelle

Roscommon Council 6593

Timothy Keenan, Steve Crist

Posen Council 6657

Jerry Shemanski, Gary Pieczynski

Mitch Muika

Michigan Center Council 6687

Albert Podgorniak, Mark Larocque

Swartz Creek Council 6694

Luke Hawrylo, Paul Ruhala

Portage Council 6980

Steve Dudasko

Macomb Council 7200

Christopher Jacks, Larry Opalewski

Birch Run Council 7233

Rob Doll

Fenton Council 7418

Bob Redden, Jeff Kline

Chris Milowe, Leonard Klosowski

Brady Short

Armada Council 7561

Michael St. John, Robert Fulner

South Lyon Council 7586

Frank Mardeusz, Kurt Hauser

Mark Zarem, Don D'Alessandro

Dave Huck, Dennis Patton

Shawn Mac

Howell Council 8169

Rev. Francis George

Roger Epp, DD, Mark Grajek

John Gwizdała

St. Helen Council 8390

Donald Rybski, Gene Graves

John Hodapp

Auburn Hills Council 8659

Jerry Rowland, Bill Doral

Karl Chase

Montrose Council 8669

Matthew Dehate, Kirk Birchmeier

Temperance Council 8902

Frank Esposito

Mason Council 9182

Jason McMahon, Ted Burch

James Kenyon

Kalamazoo Council 9962

Chase Pearse, Robert Fiach

Ira Township Council 10724

Brad Vargo, Noel Alshomali

Ann Arbor Council 10963

Robert Tomsic, David Eriksen

Matthew Wierzgac, Maynard Dixon

Lansing Council 11099

Joseph Wilhelm, Sean Riley

William Bloomfield

Clinton Twp. Council 11689

James Harla, Martin Winiarski

Guy Infante

Sterling Hgts. Council 13340

Gary Puchalski, Robert Bielinski

Erdrick Swincicki

Troy Council 13453

Dennis Briar

White Cloud Council 13939

Tim Fisbbie, Virgil Houle

Max Willcute

Shelby Twp. Council 13983

Steve Rapotec

New Buffalo Council 14366

Dan Donzelli, Jeff Roberts

Dan Cortese, Ronnie Bradford, St.

Frank Giglio, Kenneth Przystup

Comstock Park Council 15548

Joseph Breathing, Marty Vandeffelen

Fr. Baumgartner Council 5452

At the Membership meeting on October 10, 2023 o Council #5452, PGK Jim Cairns received the Star Council award from DD111 John Carry. This topped off a successful fraternal year for the council.

"Live your beliefs and you can turn the world around."

International Award

The **Michigan Knights of Columbus** have doubled down on their commitment to life and their service to mothers in need following the historic repeal of *Roe v. Wade* in 2022. More than 150 Michigan councils have participated in the Order's ASAP (Aid and Support After Pregnancy) program — more than any other jurisdiction. Together, they have donated in excess of \$400,000 to more than 75 pregnancy resource centers and maternity homes throughout the state. They also continue to support the Knights of Columbus Ultrasound Initiative and currently have placed nearly 90 lifesaving machines in pregnancy centers and clinics. To give just one example of the Knights' pro-life teamwork, councils in the Diocese of Lansing, led by Father John R. Day Council 2659 in Howell, helped raise \$170,000 for a new mobile medical unit for Pregnancy Help Clinic. The mobile unit will travel between the campuses of the University of Michigan and Michigan State University, as well as other areas, bringing essential care and services to women in crisis pregnancies.

NOTE: FOR GRAND KNIGHTS AND COUNCIL PR CHAIRMAN

In each issue of the Michigan Columbian we print the Families of the month as designated by the local councils in the State. These families deserve State wide recognition. We appreciate your help in keeping this information current. The names of the Family of the Month and the Family of the Year need to be sent to: William (Bill) Corey State Council Family Life Director, 23906 Edward St., Dearborn, MI 48128
*cfy - council family of year . Send a copy of the Family of the Month to the Michigan Columbian.

Families of the Month**Marquette Council 689**

Bob Jurkovich family

Lansing Council 788

Dave & Judy Schulte

Richard Szedlak family

Portland Council 2168

Jason & Jennifer Chamberlain

Jeffrey & Dawn Fedewa

Sean & Stacy Fox-Elster

Standish Council 2724

Pat & Carol Shannon

Jerry & Carol Brown

Westphalia Council 2890

Justin & Courtney Miller

Cody & Alyssa Hengesbach

Mike & Mallory Hunn

Chesaning Council 2943

Terrance & Shelly Wendling

Ronald & Virginia Wending

Gary & Patrica Dankert

Utica Council 2950

Ray & Mary Ann Keller

Scott & Laurie Morgan

Pinconning Council 2986

Timothy & Cherie Leppek

Raymond & Sharon Skrabut

Richard & Bonnie Misliak

Fremont Council 3111

James & Amandah Majeske

Eugene & Karla Barnes

Warren Council 3848

John & Pat McLeod *cfy

John & Meg Steinberger *cfy

Southgate Council 3956

Steven Pochini family

Anthony & Phyllis Cerezo

Gilbert & Debra Solis

New Baltimore Council 5981

Michael & Cathleen Cousins

Richard & Sarah Jo Meech

Ronald & Michelle Demick

Dale & Donna Valliere

Larry & Michelle Richard

Roscommon Council 6593

William & Cathy Jasper

Donald & Sue Croff

Posen Council 6657

Rick Montie family

Gary & Marie Wozniak

Clarence & Delphine Bisson

Michigan Center Council 6687

George & Victoria Walrath

Jeffery & Mary Ann Wilson

Swartz Creek Council 6694

Adam & Kimberly Tye

Richard & Sue Drummond

Holland Council 7115

Jeff & Kristin Schuon

Chet & Tina Pawlak

Greg & Judy Foster

Birch Run Council 7233

Kirk ,Angela & Flint Dupuie

Fenton Council 7418

Dr. Wayne & Rebecca Kinning

Tom & Colleen Collison

Dan & Helen Porter

John & Randi Riester

Dar & Marci Balcom

Armada Council 7561

Mel & Jackie Campbell

Brothers Jim & John Pavelek family

South Lyon Council 7586

Jim & Cheryl Chuck

Roger & Margaret Ratkowski

Ed & Rose Wertz

Ron & Jan Kampsen

Paul & Barbara Heiniger

Doug Osborn & Pat Paris

Craig & Heide Lukonski

Terry & Sue Delaney

Howell Council 8169

Charles & Debbie Kirk

Dennis & Patti McCarthy

Walt & Deb Czop

Dec. Bill & Ronnie Russell

Jackson Council 8392

David & Annie Best

Auburn Hills Council 8659

Jerry & Madeline Rowland

Robert & Rosalie Meyer

Montrose Council 8669

Gary & Barbara Carlin

Lonnie & Karen Ciesielski

Saginaw Council 8808

Thomas & Phylis Allardyce

Temperance Council 8902

Rick Przeniczny family

Mike & Becky Casey

Mason Council 9182

Jason & Jill McMahan

Douglas & Leah Sheridan

William & Sally Sheridan

Kalamazoo Council 9962

St. Mary Funeral Luncheon Team

Dale & Suzy Boone

Ira Township Council 10724

Cliff & Kathy Becker

Michael & Angela McCarthy

Ann Arbor Council 10963

Don & Monica Wiseman *cfy

Adam & Catalina Sypniewski *cfy

Vince & Loretta Brighton

David Fella family

Lansing Council 11099

Joel & Mary Stanewich

Arnold & Marisol Henna

Christopher & Teresa Spalding

White Lake Council 13319

Danny & Tanya Neville

Harry & Heather Linton

Sterling Hgts. Council 13340

Sam & Sharon Randazzo

Gary & Marcella Puchalski

Jacqueline LaRocca family

White Cloud Council 13939

Lon & Judy Rauch

Tom & Mary Eggleston

Herman & Marissa Becker

Comstock Park Council 15548

Leon & Diane Breathing

David & Dianna Rottiers

Marta & Peggy Brechting

Kevin & Rochelle Fricke

Land of Peace Holy Land Religious Art Exhibit

Immaculate Conception Parish and Au Lac Council 10724 in Ira Township hosted a religious art exhibit by the Catholic non-profit group Land of Peace on December 9-10. Noel Alshomali, Director of Land of Peace and member of Au Lac Council 10724, has worked tirelessly for over 12 years to raise funds for needy Christians living in the Holy Land. His organization travels to parishes around the country displaying religious artwork made by the people there. Decreased tourism due to wars and

the persecution experienced there on a daily basis has made life very difficult for Christians. The generosity of Christians living here can make a big difference in their lives. If you would like to invite Land of Peace to visit your parish, please contact them at landofpeace.org.



AROUND THE STATE

Pope John XXIII



Above is Brother Mike Swillum, a.k.a., "Mr. Pumpkin!" Pope Saint John XXIII Council #5436 is conducting its annual "Pumpkin Patch" charity fundraiser. Council #5436 serves Waterford Our Lady of the Lakes parish. The patch is open daily noon to 8pm, and 10am to 8pm on weekends through Halloween Day.

Queen of Apostles Council 6548



L-R: Tootsie Roll Chairman Ron Hasso, Deputy Grand Knight Steve Sandoval.

Fr. George Ging Council #6824



The Fr. George Ging Council #6824 serves St. Anne Catholic Church in Ortonville, MI. Father Yongli ("John") Chen is assigned as the parish priest at St. Anne's. Council #6824 operates a year-long wood-cutting program to raise funds for charity. Worthy GK Paul Miner reports that last Saturday morning (October 14th), Fr. John blessed the woodlot with a beautiful ceremony followed by Holy Water blessing of the equipment and structures. A special thank you to Fr. John and all the Brother Knights who work at the woodlot.

Lakeshore KofC Council 2733

Lakeshore KofC Council 2733 conducted their annual Pasta Dinner for children with special needs. As usual, the event was a success and will benefit their efforts to help children in our community

Escanaba Assembly #507



Sir Knights from Escanaba Assembly #507 are pictured at Holy Family Parish after their Corporate Communion Sunday Morning Mass on October 29, 2023.

Escanaba Council #640



Escanaba Council #640 held a multi-council exemplification with Gladstone Council #6667 and Bark River Council #13863 on October 28, 2023. The degree was held at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish. A total of 14 new brother knights joined the order with Escanaba #640 (2), Gladstone Brother Felix #6667 (6) and Bark River St. Elizabeth Ann Seton with (6) new members. Exemplification was held after the Saturday evening Mass with many attending. Dinner was provided by the Bark River Council.

St Patrick White Lake Council 13319



St. Patrick White Lake MI Council 13319 was presented the prestigious Star Council award at its October 4th general membership meeting. Pictured (l to r) are State Deputy Regional Representative Richard Shelt, District Deputy Alex Dominique, Former District Deputy Joe Langhauser, Membership Director Mark Agius, Grand Knight Stan Politowicz and Deputy Grand Knight Joe Gibson.

St Patrick White Lake Council 13319 Coats for Kids



On October 31st, the St. Patrick Knights of Columbus Council 13319 of White Lake, Michigan, delivered coats, hats, and gloves to twenty-four children at Dublin Elementary School who were in need of warm winter gear. This donation was made possible by the generous support of several worthy Brother Knights and is another example of our "Faith in Action".

Upper Downriver Right to Life



The Wyandotte Christmas Parade included St. Nicholas (the Upper Downriver Right to Life entry) followed by the Knights of Columbus from Wyandotte Council 1802 as shown in this photo taken during the parade line up. The part of St. Nicholas was played by Ed Kroll, a member of K of C 1802 and president of Upper Downriver Right to Life, an affiliate of Right to Life of Michigan.

Father Edmund Battersby Council 7586



Father Edmund Battersby Council 7586 in South Lyon, Michigan Grand Knight Jim Chuck and Lady Cheryl are sorting the

clothing from the Annual Coat, Hat, and Glove Drive. The garments will be given to Christ the King Church and St. Dominic Outreach Program in time for Christmas.





Michigan Knights of Columbus 2023-2024 Raffle

Tickets
ONLY
\$5.00

Explore Michigan – Shamrocks and Shamrockers Tour



**1st PRIZE "CHARITY"
PETOSKEY**
Stuffed Perry Hotel
Petoskey, Michigan
4 Dinets / 2 Nights / 2 Rooms
PLUS \$12,000.00 Cash



**2nd PRIZE "UNITY"
GRAND RAPIDS**
Anway Grand Hotel
Grand Rapids, Michigan
4 Dinets / 2 Nights / 2 Rooms
Includes Beer Tour
PLUS \$3,000.00 Cash



**3rd PRIZE "FRATERNITY"
HOLLAND**
Staybridge Suites
Holland, Michigan
4 Dinets / 2 Nights / 2 Rooms
Includes "Best of Holland" Package
PLUS \$1,000.00 Cash



**4th PRIZE "PATRIOTISM"
FRANKENMUTH**
Bavarian Inn Lodge
Frankenmuth, Michigan
4 Dinets / 2 Nights / 2 Rooms
Includes 4 Waterpark Passes
PLUS \$1,000.00 Cash



10k - 10k Price = \$400.00
20k - 30k Price = \$200.00

11k - 20k Price = \$200.00
31k - 40k Price = \$100.00

Drawing: Thursday, April 11, 2024 Doors Open @ 5:00 pm Drawing @ 8:00 pm
St. John Newman Parish, 4400 Warren St., Warren, MI 48097 (588) 486-0141

Karin Rowley - State Raffle Director
Mike Rowley - State Raffle Director

Ph: (588) 596-0649
Ph: (588) 873-8234

Email: k.rowley@knights.org
Email: m.rowley@knights.org

(Lic. #011700)

Kids, Kids, Kids Everywhere!



The Fr. Gjergj Fishta Council #10343 held their annual St. Nicholas Party on Saturday, December 2, 2023. The event was held at the parish hall of St. Paul Albanian Catholic Church.

There were over 500 people in attendance with their children. The children were able to have their faces painted with symbols of the season. They were also entertained by a magician that dazzled them with his artistry. Also in attendance was the local Albanian Television Station, covering the festivities.

And of course, the premier attraction was none other than St. Nicholas himself. He greeted each child as their pictures were taken. The kids were hopeful St. Nicholas would make their wishes come true.

It was a festive affair as everyone indulged themselves with hamburgers and French fries as well as cookies and cupcakes! It was a great time for the kids and the parents. Another great job done by knights of the Fr. Fishta Council #10343.

Au Lac Council 10724 Members Prepare Church For Advent & Christmas



Knights and other volunteers worked on November 30th and repaired several church pews and walls, cleaned the three large ceiling fans and high ledges, and performed other work inside their church in preparation for the Advent and Christmas seasons.

Programs = New Members

MICHIGAN COLUMBIAN PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

COPY DEADLINE MONTH

MARCH 1st..... APRIL 2024
 JUNE 1st..... JULY 2024
 SEPTEMBER 1st.....OCTOBER 2024
 DECEMBER 1st..... JANUARY 2024

PLEASE SEND ALL COPY MATERIAL TO:
 GARY M. KOLBICZ
 39373 DURAND DRIVE
 STERLING HEIGHTS, MI. 48310
 RES. 586-939-3886



Online Membership



A Program for Recruiting and Engaging New Members



MICHIGAN STATE COUNCIL CONTACTS

These directors and coordinators can provide additional information about E-membership:

Doug Kokot, State E-Membership Director

d.kokot@mikofc.org 616-891-6922.

Richard Shelt State Membership Director

r.shelt@mikofc.org

Father Edmund Battersby Council 7586 November Exemplification



Pictured Left to Right Ron Kampson Faith Director, Roger Ratkowski Family Director, Frank Mardeusz Past Grand Knight, Joe Archer New Member, Paul Heining, Deputy Grand Knight, Leon Budziak New Member, Deacon Dan Gonos, Marc Daniels Advocate, Bob Donahue, Fred Heiler Past Grand Knight, Joseph Bailog Jr.

JOINT MEMBERSHIP DRIVE - CHRISTMAS CARD SALE

Knights from Lake Orion Council 4764 assisted Right to Life - LIFESPAN with selling Christmas Cards at Christ the Redeemer's Christmas Market. Twenty-five boxes were sold. KC literature was available, and one new member recruited.



GK Tom Tiffany and PGK Frank Kramarczyk with Marita Mandalari at joint card sale and membership drive

Newberry Council 2929



Exemplification of Dave Dietz of St. Timothy's of Curtis, MI into Newberry Council 2929 on September 12th, 2023 at St. Gregory's in Newberry, MI.

Father Edmund Battersby Council 7586 Receives Top Award



District Deputy Larry Paffi presented the Star Council Award to Grand Knight Jim Chuck Knights of Columbus Father Battersby Council 7586 St. Joseph Parish in South Lyon, Michigan has received the distinction of Star Council, the international organization's top award for the fraternal year July 2022 through June 2023.

The Star Council award recognizes overall excellence in the area of membership, promotion of the fraternal insurance program, and sponsorship of service-oriented activities.

This past fraternal year Father Battersby Council has participated in the Vocation Program, Tootsie Roll Drive, Lenten Fish Fry, and the Free Throw Basketball Contest.

With 1.7 million members, the Knights of Columbus is the world's largest Catholic family fraternal service organization. It provides members and their

ASAP - OXFORD PREGNANCY CENTER SUPPORT



Recently the Lake Orion Knights of Columbus Council 4764 donated \$500 to the Oxford Pregnancy Center, raising the total 2023 financial support – including “Dads For Life” donations - to \$950. In 2014, the Council contributed an ultrasound machine to the Center. Knight members are parishioners of Christ the Redeemer and St. Joseph

Catholic Churches in Lake Orion.

Council #5452 Sails Past 100% New Member Quota



On December 12, 2023, the Fr. Baumgartner Council #5452 welcomed three new members into their council. It was witnessed by the wives of two of the new members and about 40 members of the council.

Council #5452's quota is 15, the maximum number. During the ensuing meeting, their Membership Director, Jack Allen, said their goal now is to attain Double Star. He still has good list of prospective candidates who have expressed an interest in becoming knights. Welcome to the new knights!

Saint Anastasia Council 13453



On October 11, 2023, Council #13453 received their Star Council Award for the 2022-2023 Fraternal Year. In the picture is PGK Chuck Burke, GK Bob Preston and DD111 John Carry.

Programs = New Members

May They Rest In Peace

Monroe Council 1266
Dennis Miller
Manistique Council 2022
Don Maul
Warren Council 2835
Robert Olejniczak, PGK, PFN
Westphalia Council 2890
Gerald Pung

Chesaning Council 2943
Robert Wright, Robert Giesken
Kenneth Henige, Duane Wenzlick
St. Clair Shores 3725
Fr. James Bjorum
Allen Park Council 3774
Keith Naubert, Paul Sloan
Carl Goodreau, Clint Hamet

Imlay City Council 4556
Paul Curzydlo
Posen Council 6657
Larry Kuznicki,
Richard Boys, Sr.
Sanford Council 8043
Arnold Fuhrman, Richard Prebay
Laz Ivera, PGK

St. Helen Council 8390
Thomas Drake
Harrison Twp. Council 11658
Frank Wojtal
Port Huron Council 11756
Peter Kurtz

A HOLY, HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO YOU AND YOURS

In this special season of the year, we celebrate the birth of the Child who chose a family setting in which to prepare for His saving mission.

In this special season, it is natural to stand back a bit from the cares of daily living, to return, as children, to the source of all our warmth, good feelings, and pleasant memories-to our families.

In this special season, of carols and gifts, trees and wreaths, lights and age-old traditions, let us not forget that Christmas is, at its very heart, a family feast.

So, with our families and friends, our brothers and sisters known and unknown, let us rejoice in His coming. May this season be for all a time of happiness, of togetherness and of peace on earth.

Christopher & Julie Kolomjec
State Deputy

Barry & Mandy Borsenik
State Secretary

Vern & Christy Miron
State Warden



Rev. Aidan Logan
State Chaplain

Charles & Pamela McCuen, III
State Treasurer

Daniel & Kara Fuller, Jr.
State Warden