

Robert Wolf, State Deputy

Knights Courier

June 2024 Vol. 52 Iss. 4



119th Nebraska State Convention Entertaining! Informative! Recognition!



Columbus State Convention, held April 26-28, 2024, in Kearney.

He is one of Pope Francis' appointed Missionaries of Mercy. Missionaries of Mercy are chosen to facilitate initiatives or missions with emphasis on the sacrament of reconciliation as a way of making God's merciful love, the Church's maternal compassion and the Father's welcome available to all.



Top left: Fr. Jim Sichko taking a selfie with a Nebraska Knight. Center and bottom left: Knights and their families enjoying fellowship.

Who gets 4 a.m. selfies with Pope Francis and carries the Mission of Mercy wherever he goes, evangelizing in churches around the world and through cell phones?

Father Jim Sichko, the speaker for the Family Program, and one of the highlights of the 119th Nebraska Knights of



Fr. Sichko shared stories of his ministry and how to listen and know God's voice in our lives. He offered three steps to do this: 1. Spend time with God in prayer or in scripture to build the relationship and understanding; 2. Surrender to what God is asking; 3. Try - make an effort to carry out the work before you regardless of comfort or qualifications as God will provide.

The Friday and Saturday meetings covered many topics and projects. Top of these items were new training and procedures for 4th Degree, membership initiatives, star council and star district progress, as well as voting for ICC Champion.

It was an absolutely fantastic weekend as we recognized the efforts of so many
Continued on page 9.

April 26 Tornadoes Disaster Relief

From the Desk of State Deputy, Robert Wolf

My Brothers,

As many of you know we had areas of eastern Nebraska that were hard hit by storms and tornadoes.

The State Council is preparing disaster response teams to go to these areas to offer assistance. We will be preparing meals and handing out gift cards to help those who are most affected.

We are asking the councils for their help. If your council could donate to the State Disaster Fund, that money would be used to help those in need.

Make your checks out to Knights of Columbus



Disaster Fund and mail them to:

Don Hypse
1013 Aspen St
Wayne, NE 68787

Thank you my Brothers and God Bless,
Bob Wolf

Sharing the Eucharist

There's a lot of excitement in the Church in the United States as we gear up for the Eucharistic Congress this summer. The last two years of preparation have helped us grow in understanding of the truth of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament as well as appreciation for that great gift which is at the center of our life as Catholics. Some have attributed the increased numbers of people who were received into the Church this year at the Easter Vigil to the increased appreciation for and honor given to the Holy Eucharist.

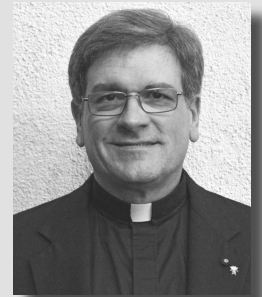
The Catholic Church would not be the Catholic Church without the Eucharist. We would not have His life in us. We would not have His abiding presence in this world because He dwells in our churches in the Tabernacle. The sacrifice of Christ on Calvary would be only a past event if it were not made present once again in every Mass that is offered. We rely on the Mass and the presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament to make His saving mysteries present to us so that we have a living encounter with Him when we participate in the Mass. No wonder that the Church in official documents speaks of the Holy Eucharist as the source and summit of the Christian life.

As Jesus comes across our country in four Eucharistic processions heading to the Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis, we will have a rare opportunity to greet Him along the way. He will have a number of stops in Nebraska, and He will visit each of the three dioceses. Please plan to take part in some of the events that will be held for the procession and maybe to participate in the Eucharistic Congress.

On the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of the Lord, also known as Corpus Christi, celebrated this year on June 2, there is a custom of having processions with the Blessed Sacrament. Some parishes will have their own processions, and other larger events are also being planned. We can publicly bear witness to our faith in Jesus' Real Presence in the Blessed Sacrament and show our love for Him by participating in these events.

Vivat Jesus!

Father John Rooney
State Chaplain, Diocese of Lincoln



Be sure to follow the Nebraska Knights of Columbus on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter and at www.nebraskakofc.org



Growing the Fourth Degree



As we close this fraternal year, we have been successful as a state covering all Assembly Exemplifications and visits requested. We had wonderful Exemplifications across the state from Bellevue, Norfolk, North Platte, McCook, and Lincoln with many already being scheduled for the future. If your Assembly would like to host an Exemplification, please contact me to schedule. I would like to thank our state Exemplification Team for the dedication as we moved across the state.

Our State Convention held April 26-28, 2024, at the Younes Conference Center was a huge success. Our 4th Degree meeting brought in approximately 50 Sir Knights. We were honored to have our State Chaplain deliver an opening blessing, and our State Deputy and Supreme Guest offered comments. The overall meeting agenda and interactions were well received.

The State Mass was celebrated by Bishop Emeritus William Dendinger of Grand Island. Concelebrants were Father Rooney, Father Schweiger, and Father Major.

The attendance and presence of the 4th Degree who stood Honor Guard was historic with over 45 Sir Knights being present. We were honored to have our Vice Supreme Master join us for the Mass and State Banquet.

I want to thank all the Faithful Navigators, their Assemblies, and families for their work in supporting Patriotism across Nebraska and continuing to encourage Brother Knights to become Sir Knights. I would like to thank our State Deputy Bob Wolf and the State Officers for their support to the 4th Degree. We are blessed to have a united state from which to grow.

May you and your family have all the best that life offers.

God Bless,

Mark Borytsky, PSD
Nebraska District Master
402.212.9612 cell
mborytsky@cox.net



Thanks to All for a Strong First Year

Brother Knights and Families,

Vivat Jesus! What a great convention we had. Thanks to all the Knights and their families that attended. We got a lot of work done and had a lot of fun while doing it. Father Sichko's talk at the family program was enlightening, humorous and spiritual. The ladies' program and the ladies luncheon presentations, as well as their associated activities, were exceptional. Thank you to First Lady Chris for making them happen. Thanks also to the Past State First Ladies and wives of our State Officers that helped with the set up and execution of these events.

The awards ceremony on Friday night went great. A special thanks to State Program Director Mitchell Lowery for being the MC for the night and to all our Membership RGD's that helped present the awards. Thanks to PSD Don Ferneding for being the MC at the State Dinner on Saturday night, Don did a great job. Also, many thanks to our Supreme guest, Rene Trevino, and his lovely wife, Carla, for attending our State Convention. Rene had a lot of good insights for us on how to better our Councils going forward.

The downside to the convention was the terrible storms that hit the east side of the state. Our thoughts and prayers go out to all that were affected. Our disaster relief team, led by IPSD Matt Richardson, is already preparing the State response.

With only just over a month left before the end of our Fraternal year, we have 23 Councils that are close to achieving Star Council. Let's really push so these Councils receive the Supreme recognition they deserve. Fantastic

job by our District Deputies and State Regional Growth Directors in helping them out.

We have our Grand Knight, Financial Secretary and District Deputy Training Seminar coming up July 13-14 at the Holiday Inn in Kearney. Anybody from your Council may attend, they don't have to be Grand Knights or Financial Secretaries. There will be a lot of information about the upcoming Fraternal year, so make sure that at least one person from your Council attends.

As Chris and I approach the end of our first year as your State Couple, we want to thank everyone who has helped to make this year so successful and memorable. Father Rooney, thanks for your spiritual guidance. IPSD Matt Richardson and his First Lady Connie, thanks for all your help on so many things. Program Director Mitchell Lowery, Membership Director Rob Ostdiek, and Executive Secretary Ray Guggenberger, you do so much for me and for our State, thank you. To all our Officers, Directors and Chairmen, State RGD's, District Deputies and especially our Supreme RGD, Ray Lopez, without your help, we would not have had the success we have seen this year. And most importantly, thank you to all the Knights and their families from across Nebraska for all your support, thoughts, and prayers over the last year. Together we carry the message and mission of the Knights of Columbus forward.

God Bless you all,

Robert Wolf
State Deputy



Legislative Corner - Join the "5 for Life" Club

Nebraska is facing a critical crossroads. Pro-abortion activists are working overtime to erase Nebraska's pro-life values. These activists are trying to pass a state constitutional right to late-pregnancy abortions on this November's ballot. This effort is dangerous, deceptive, and demeaning, and it's too extreme for Nebraska. It will harm women, girls, and babies, and give the abortion industry a major foothold in the Good Life.

But you have the chance to stop this morally evil effort.

The Nebraska Catholic Conference, which represents the public policy interests of the Catholic Church in Nebraska, is urging you to join our "5 for Life" Club. The idea is simple. Talk with 5 new people each week between now and Election Day. Let them know about the pro-abortion ballot initiative, and why it's bad for Nebraska.

These conversations don't have to be 2-hour coffee get-togethers. They can be as simple as a text message. Ask family, friends, fellow parishioners, or community members if they've heard about the pro-abortion ballot initiative, and

if you could share some educational information to help inform them.

Imagine if each of us were talking to 5 new people each week. Before you know it, we would collectively be talking to thousands and even tens of thousands of Nebraskans across the state. The impact would be significant, and it will have eternal consequences. At stake in this effort are the very lives of human beings, moms and babies.

To join our "5 for Life" Club, contact necrcc@necatholic.org and tell us you want to join. In the meanwhile, visit www.NEcatholic.org where you can find more resources about this dangerous, deceptive, and demeaning pro-abortion ballot initiative.

God bless your dedication to the Gospel of Life! St. John Paul II, pray for us!

Tom Venzor
Executive Director
Nebraska Catholic Conference





Keep Christ in Christmas 2024



Catholic Prayer Cards, LLC – New supplier of English Christmas Cards and stocking stuffer items for 2024 Gorgeous Assortment of English Christmas Cards. 12 cards per box. 7 boxes of each design. 35 boxes per assortment plus 50 free bookmarks.

Council cost per box of cards: \$8.50 (\$297.50 total cost per assortment). Shipping/Handling (\$29.75 per assortment). Retail value per box: \$13.00 plus \$1 for each bookmark. (\$505.00 retail value per assortment). A Council will generate a profit of \$177.75 for each assortment of cards and bookmarks it sells.

Councils will enter orders online. The ordering and payment process will be defined at the July meeting.

Christ is Christmas, LLC – Supplier of Multi-Cultural Christmas Cards and promotional items for 2024 Display Box of Spanish Assorted Christmas Cards. 10-15 cards per package/box. 21 packages/boxes per display plus 4 Spanish car magnets and 2 pins.

Special Council cost per package/box \$4.00 to \$6.00. \$94.00 per Display Box if ordered before 9/25/24. Limit one special order per Council. Cost is \$104.75 if ordered after 9/25/24. Shipping cost for one Display Box: \$16.00. Retail price per box: \$5.00 to \$9.00. Retail price per magnet: \$5.00. Retail price per pin: \$1.00 (\$153.25 retail value per display box).

A Council will generate a profit of \$43.25 on the first Display Box it sells and \$32.50 profit on each additional Display Box. Councils will complete a paper order form and mail it to KCIC Chairman Larry Koerner along with check payable to Knights of Columbus.

Watch for details on the K of C State Website for a complete list of items, the online ordering process for English text cards and order forms for the Multi-Cultural Christmas Cards and specialty items.

Larry and Kathy Koerner
Faith Directors



Robert H. Ostdiek, A Life Legacy of Service

Robert H. Ostdiek, who passed away on April 19, 2024, spent his life of nearly 91 years serving God, his family and his community. Born on May 2, 1933, in Lawrence, NE, to Hubert and Louise Ostdiek, he was the fifth of 13 children.

He earned a BA and MA in mathematics and education. He worked as an educator and administrator in several Eastern Nebraska communities, as well serving in the Army ROTC program. He was commissioned in 1955 and served in the Army Reserves for 8 years.

He met Janet Johnston in 1957 and the couple married in 1959. While they lived in several communities, they moved to Gretna in 1960 where they raised their nine children.

Thanks to his father's purchase of the Lawrence Locomotive weekly newspaper in 1943 which grew to include six

Nebraska community weekly papers, Bob and his siblings learned the business of newspaper publishing. The Gretna community approached him to begin a weekly newspaper. The result was the Gretna Guide and News which served the community for 60 years.

He also served on a number of community and school boards and foundations. Wherever he saw a need, he tried to find a solution. He led fundraising efforts, community projects and drives. In 2015, he was recognized as Gretna Citizen of the Year.

One of his favorite organizations was the Knights of Columbus, which he joined on his 18th birthday. He remained active in the organization his entire life. He helped charter the Papillion-Gretna council and later the Gretna council. Bob held many leadership positions including Nebraska State Deputy (1990-1992), District Master (1995-1999) and was elected to the Supreme officer position of Warden (1991-1993).

Several of his sons, nephews and grandsons have also become members of the Knights and continue the Ostdiek legacy of service.



Eucharistic Revival - Eucharistic Congress - Eucharistic Procession

We began taking our Lord Jesus Christ to the streets on the Feast of Corpus Christi, June 19, 2022. For a year, dioceses worked to strengthen and deepen their devotion, love, and relationship with Christ. In June 2023, parishes began bringing the Eucharistic Revival to their congregations through adoration, exposition, missions, pilgrimages, and many other events designed to help everyone begin, or strengthen, their walk with Christ.

In 2024, we have another opportunity to take Christ to the streets and walk with Him through Eucharistic Processions. Where did Jesus do most of His teaching? In towns, in villages, in fields, and as he walked with His disciples from place to place. Now is our unique chance to walk with Jesus, to learn from Him, to encounter Him, and to grow closer to Him. Think about the Gospel story of the two disciples recounting their encounter with Christ on the road to Emmaus: "Were not our hearts burning?" Christ's disciples did not know what would happen as they walked with Jesus, but they were drawn to Him. They knew their hearts were burning. Now it is our chance.

Beginning on May 17, 2024, four routes will cross the United States, ending in Indianapolis, IN, the week of June 17 - 24 at the National Eucharistic Congress. We in

Nebraska are blessed to be part of the St. Junipero Serra route that will leave the Archdiocese of San Francisco on May 17 and wind through Nevada, Oregon, Idaho, Utah, and Colorado before making 26 stops across Nebraska. Each of our dioceses will have opportunities to participate in this great outward show of faith. You can find the details of each stop on nebraskakofc.org.

We encourage every Knight, their families, and friends to participate in this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Councils and Assemblies will be receiving additional information about how they can participate. Spend time with our Lord, for a few minutes, an hour, a day. Let your heart be open to know Christ more fully and to know His True Presence in the Holy Eucharist that was given to us at the Last Supper and is with us every minute of every hour of every day. Come and be fed like the five thousand – not with fishes and loaves, but with the true Body and Blood of Christ.

Richard Lowery, PSD, FDM
Evangelization and Faith
Formation Director



NATIONAL
**Eucharistic
Pilgrimage**

McGivney Foundation Raffle and Silent Auction

The McGivney Foundation thanks everyone who bought a raffle ticket or bid in the silent auction at the annual meeting. It raised \$3,270 for the Foundation.

A special thanks to those who donated to the raffle: Council 7734, Fat Brain Toys, Gina and Damian Howard, Kros Strain Brewing, Mac's Creek Winery, Nebraska Brewing Company, Patriot Brewing, The Tea Smith, Elizabeth and

Don Ferdening, Beth and Dan Wells, and Joe Bober.

Silent auction winners were: Redlin Print-Stan Johnson, NE Football tickets-Kurt Jackson, and Golf Outing-Joe Bober.

We hope to expand and appreciate your consideration to donate items for next year. Blessings to you and your families.

Don Ferneding (402) 943-6320 / Dan Wells (402) 880-2586.

Lottery Success for Seminarians

From early February until leaving for the State Convention, I got to know my mailman better as he delivered thousands of tickets sent by brother Knights. The total tickets purchased this year was 11,980, raising a whopping total of \$119,800.

Although that total is grand, it represents only about 20% participation. Just think if each Nebraska Knight purchased *one* ticket, the total would be more than double this year's sum.

I am pleased to announce the winners, drawn by Bishop Conley at the States Banquet at the 2024 Convention.

Grand prize \$2,500 winner Ed Rief, Axtell
Dale Von Lintel, Scottsbluff - \$1,000

Brianna Tickle, Lincoln \$750
Ted Wieser, Wahoo \$500
Roland Hohn, Wahoo \$250
McKayla Aschinger, Breda, IA \$100
John Konecky, Fremont \$100
Steve Meister, West Point \$100
Larry Schneider, Lincoln \$100
Michael Fowler, Springfield \$100



Well done! Let's go through the roof in 2025!
Vivat Jesus!

Brian Hamik, State Warden

119TH ANNUAL STATE CONVENTION

APRIL 26-28, 2024 AWARD PRESENTATIONS

ICC AWARDS 2024

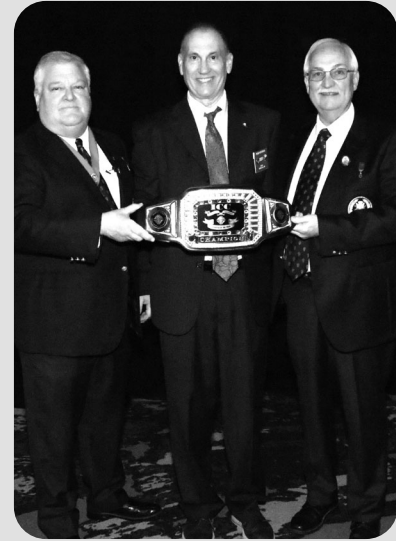
ICC Gold #1966 Fr. Shine, Plattsmouth
 ICC Gold #6429 Archbishop Bergan, Papillion
 ICC Gold #9563 Cathedral of the Risen Christ, Lincoln
 ICC Gold #9704 St. Mary, Lincoln
 ICC Gold #9771 St. Elizabeth Ann, Omaha
 ICC Gold #11001 Blessed Sacrament, Lincoln
 ICC Gold #11879 St. Matthew, Bellevue
 ICC Gold #13576 Msgr. David R. Hintz, Lincoln



ICC Silver #2681 Fr. Timothy P. Molony, Scottsbluff
 ICC Silver #6192 Columban, Bellevue
 ICC Silver #10895 St. James, Omaha
 ICC Silver #12086 St. Isidore, Columbus



ICC Bronze #652 Fr. Flanagan of Boys Town, Omaha
 ICC Bronze #7740 St. John Vianney, Omaha
 ICC Bronze #9518 Fr. William A. Foster, Ralston
 ICC Bronze #10047 Fr. John V. Wallace, Gretna
 ICC Bronze #10160 St. Stephen the Martyr, Omaha
 ICC Bronze #10795 St. Vincent DePaul, Omaha
 ICC Bronze #14077 St. Charles Borromeo, Gretna
 ICC Bronze #15944 Mary Queen of Angels, Bellwood



Champion #9704 St. Mary, Lincoln



Special recognition was given to Paul Younes (left) for his ongoing hospitality and support of the Knights and posthumously to Fr. Stephen Gutsell, received by Council 10305, following his murder in Dec. 2023.

Publicity, Top Overall Council

Div	Rank	Council #	Council Name
Div 1	1st	#N/A	N/A
Div 2	1st	#15101	St. Pius the Tenth, Omaha
Div 3	1st	#1966	Fr. Shine, Plattsmouth
Div 4	1st	#11001	Blessed Sacrament, Lincoln
Div 5	1st	#6192	Columban, Bellevue

Publicity, Best Council Event

Rank	Council #	Council Name
Equal	#11800	St. Margaret Mary, Omaha
Equal	#13080	Our Lady of Lourdes, Omaha
Equal	#652	Fr. Flanagan of Boys Town, Omaha
Equal	#3720	Rev. W. W. Kroupa, Spencer
Equal	#4707	St. Joseph, Atkinson
Equal	#5881	St. Boniface, Stuart
Equal	#701	Charles Carroll of Carrollton, O'Neill

Life, Supreme Service Award #12086 St. Isidore, Columbus
Life, State Service Award #10047 Fr. John V. Wallace, Gretna

Culture of Life Art Contest

Rank	Name	Council #	Council Name
1st	Sarah Fernandes	#10160	St. Stephen the Martyr, Omaha
2nd	Elijah Burks	#10795	St. Vincent DePaul, Omaha
3rd	Lacey Smith	#10795	St. Vincent DePaul, Omaha

One Rose - One Life

Div	Rank	Council #	Council Name
Div 1	1st	#6385	Fr. Robert Barry, Bassett/Ainsworth
Div 2	1st	#14320	St. James, Cortland
Div 3	1st	#5045	Christ the King, Omaha
Div 4	1st	#10923	Prince of Peace, Kearney
Div 5	1st	#10108	St. Robert Bellarmine, Omaha
Div 1	2nd	#14423	Sacred Heart, Shelby
Div 2	2nd	#10506	Holy Spirit, North Platte
Div 3	2nd	#13956	Pope John Paul II, Omaha
Div 4	2nd	#10895	St. James, Omaha
Div 5	2nd	#10795	St. Vincent DePaul, Omaha

Intellectual Disabilities, Most Funds Raised

Div	Rank	Council #	Council Name
Div 1	1st	#10815	Our Lady of Guadalupe, Omaha
Div 2	1st	#7684	Fr. Ulenberg, Geneva/Grafton/Shickley
Div 3	1st	#1966	Fr. Shine, Plattsmouth
Div 4	1st	#10923	Prince of Peace, Kearney
Div 5	1st	#2716	St. Anthony of Padua, Schuyler

Intellectual Disabilities, Highest Percentage Increase

Div	Rank	Council #	Council Name
Div 1	1st	#10815	Our Lady of Guadalupe, Omaha
Div 2	1st	#14320	St. James, Cortland
Div 3	1st	#5045	Christ the King, Omaha
Div 4	1st	#10923	Prince of Peace, Kearney
Div 5	1st	#10913	St. Michael, Lincoln
Div 1	2nd	#7966	Fr. Wencelaus Beranek, Wilber/Tobias
Div 2	2nd	#7714	Pope John Paul I, Superior
Div 3	2nd	#8986	St. Leonard, Madison
Div 4	2nd	#2681	Fr. Timothy P. Molony, Scottsbluff
Div 5	2nd	#1233	Msgr. Werner, Hartington
Div 1	3rd	#N/A	N/A
Div 2	3rd	#15944	Mary Queen of Angels, Bellwood
Div 3	3rd	#7034	Fr. John F Brock, Valley
Div 4	3rd	#11823	St. Cecilia, Hastings
Div 5	3rd	#1497	Phil Sheridan, Fremont

**Special Projects**

Equal #10163 St. Joseph, Benkelman/Stratton
 Equal #15101 St. Pius the Tenth, Omaha

On-Going Projects

Equal #11001 Blessed Sacrament, Lincoln
 Equal #12086 St. Isidore, Columbus

Support of Vocations

Equal #7740 St. John Vianney, Omaha
 Equal #10913 St. Michael, Lincoln

Leonard Feehan Memorial Community Service Award

#6192 Columban, Bellevue

Community, Supreme Service Award #10510 St. Peter, Lincoln
Community, State Service Award #9563 Cathedral of the Risen Christ, Lincoln

Family, Supreme Service Award #1966 Fr. Shine, Plattsmouth
Family, State Service Award #6192 Columban, Bellevue

Faith, Supreme Service Award #11001 Blessed Sacrament, Lincoln
Faith, State Service Award #1966 Fr. Shine, Plattsmouth

Support of Catholic Education

Equal #6192 Columban, Bellevue
 Equal #8010 Msgr. Hubert Campo, Aurora/Giltner

Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest

1st Age 5-7	Parker Sikola	#10895	St. James, Omaha
1st Age 8-10	Lily Vo	#11312	St. Isaac Jogues, Lincoln
1st Age 11-14	Emma Gueret	#11312	St. Isaac Jogues, Lincoln

District Deputy of the Year

Allan Rolf District #21 Spalding

Runner Up

John Fransen District #9 Lincoln

Knight of the Year

Joshua Lambert #11001 Blessed Sacrament, Lincoln

Runner Up

David Glatter #12687 Fr. Robert Foster Jubilee, Elm Creek

Rookie Knight of the Year

David Diaz #15407 St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, Lincoln

Runner Up

Charles "Tim" Reicks #1966 Fr. Shine, Plattsmouth

Chaplain of the Year

Fr. Joe Miksch #12086 St. Isidore, Columbus

Runner Up

Fr. Robert Froeschl #11001 Blessed Sacrament, Lincoln

Family of the Year

William "Bill" and Tracy Bohan Jr.

#1966 Fr. Shine, Plattsmouth

Runner Up

Jeff and Cindy Bishop #6192 Columban, Bellevue

Award recipients with State Deputy Bob Wolf and his wife Chris, from center top counterclockwise: Charles "Tim" Reicks, John Fransen, Allan Rolf, David Glatter, David Diaz, and Fr. Joe Miksch.

Unable to attend and not pictured are Runner Up Chaplain of the Year, Fr. Robert Froeschl, and Knight of the Year, Joshua Lambert.

Insurance

Pfeifer Agent of the Year	Noah Pfeifer	Norfolk
Swanson Agent of the Year	Brian Almond	Hastings

Membership, Highest Percent Gain

Div 1	1st	#7081	Imperial, Imperial
Div 1	1st	#11822	American Charities, Exeter/Friend
Div 1	1st	#15869	Msgr. John Kean, Odell
Div 2	1st	#13015	Our Lady of Good Counsel, Lincoln
Div 3	1st	#13584	St. Michael of Spalding, Spalding
Div 4	1st	#5455	St. Josaphat, Loup City
Div 5	1st	#10108	St. Robert Bellarmine, Omaha
Div 1	2nd	#N/A	N/A #N/A
Div 2	2nd	#1312	Bishop O'Connor, Greeley
Div 3	2nd	#1966	Fr. Shine, Plattsmouth
Div 4	2nd	#1739	St. Michael, Albion
Div 5	2nd	#10909	St. Wenceslaus, Omaha



2024 Family of the Year Winner and Runner Up



Bill and Tracy Bohan (center) are the 2024 Nebraska Family of the Year.

This year's Nebraska Knights of Columbus Family of the Year winner is Bill and Tracy Bohan Jr from Council #1966, Fr Shine in Plattsmouth. They do not shy away from hard work and have done their part in helping out their parish community. This Knight joined his parish's council in 2015 and has been an integral part of their fundraising efforts.

This Knight has an extensive background in construction, which came in handy when his council took the lead role in Phase 2 of a refurbishment effort of an 80-year-old barn and storage shed on the grounds of the new Motherhouse and Retreat Center for the Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother. This Knight, again, put his skills to use when he was called upon to help the nun's get an organ moved from Lincoln to their new chapel. He is also an active member on the church's building and maintenance committee.

This Knight also plays a significant role in his council's fundraising efforts. He takes action in efforts such as the annual Tootsie Roll drive, he coordinates locations and teams of Knights and Special Olympians, and was a major influence over the success of the annual golf tournament in which proceeds go to support the only Catholic school in the county.

But this isn't an award for Knight of the Year, and this Knight couldn't have done all that he has without the help and support of his loving wife. Together, this Knight and his wife have helped co-chair the parish's annual Lenten fish fries, which happens to be this parish's #1 fundraiser and is relied upon to support much of the parish's budget for the year. They put on six fish fries during Lent, so this is no small undertaking! Often times the planning is year-round for these events with advertising, food prep, obtaining alcohol licenses, and post-event action planning.

This couple also takes on the duties of managing the Friday Adoration schedule for the smallest church in their dioceses that has Perpetual Adoration. They work together to make sure that all 24 hours are covered every week.

This husband-and-wife team also have a blended family of 5 children, and 2 grandchildren. One of their son's is in his 8th year of seminary and they look forward to his ordination. This Knight and his wife have provided support and a loving environment while he navigates his calling. This son will be the first priest from the parish in 50 years.



Jeff and Cindy Bishop (center) are the 2024 Nebraska Family of the Year Runner Up.

This year's Nebraska Knights of Columbus Family of the Year Runner-up is Jeff and Cindy Bishop of Council #6192, Columban in Bellevue. This husband-and-wife team that have been involved with the Knights of Columbus ever since this Knight joined the organization 38 years ago. This Knight has recently become a 4th Degree Sir Knight and is often found at his council's Tootsie Roll drives, semiannual highway clean ups, spaghetti dinners, and Lenten fish fries. He has volunteered many hours helping with the renovations of the new hall after the old hall was destroyed in the 2019 floods.

This Knight and his wife are active in the parish's marriage preparation program "When Couples Marry," as well as being active with the youth ministry and children's liturgy. This team also helps to prepare meals and snacks for the ChristLife sessions each year.

This Knight's wife has worked at vacation bible schools, served in leadership roles with the Ladies Guild, and is currently in her 2nd term as Catholic Daughters of the Americas Regent. She is committed to a weekly hour of Eucharistic Adoration and serves as lector and EMHC. She has been honored as her parish's Catholic Woman of the Year.

During their 42 years of marriage, this couple has welcomed four children into this world. Their children all attended the local Catholic school. Now as adults, they have added 14 grandchildren to the family, which keeps this Knight and his wife very busy attending all their activities!

In their free time this Knight and his wife enjoy traveling and have visited 49 of the 50 states, hoping to cross off Alaska soon. Their travels have also included pilgrimages to Austria and Greece.

Continued from page 1.

outstanding individuals and councils. The hard work of each of the members in Nebraska is what truly makes the Nebraska Knights of Columbus one of the best. We had nearly 650 ICC Applications submitted for the last fraternal year, including 196 Keystone Projects. Over 60 councils across the State were recognized for their efforts in membership and programs.

With the inclusion of the Keystone Projects this year, we had a record number of ICC Gold recipients, 8 in total, as well



as 4 ICC Silver recipients and 8 ICC Bronze recipients. The entire Friday Night Awards Dinner can be found on the State Website, along with more pictures from the weekend. Visit <https://nebraskakofc.org/resources/2024-state-convention.html> to see more.

Besides the many awards announced at Friday's dinner, Mike Vaughn, received a Quilt of Valor for his service to our country. The quilt was handmade by Carol Weber (right). A special award was presented posthumously to Fr. Stephen Gutsell, who was murdered in Dec. 2023, and received by the Fort Calhoun Council. A complete list of all the awards can be found on pages 6, 7 and 8.



Supreme Golf Tournament in Lincoln

The 55th K.C.I.A.G.A. Golf Tournament

will be held on June 11-13, 2024
at Highlands Golf Course in Lincoln, NE.

Information - Don Loecker at 402-954-0508



Invitation to Grand Knight, Financial Secretary and District Deputy Seminar

With this fraternal year almost at an end, it is time to start thinking about the annual Summer Meeting. This event will be held July 12-14, 2024 in Kearney, Nebraska at the Holiday Inn Hotel. This weekend will be an excellent opportunity for Grand Knights, Deputy Grand Knights, Financial Secretaries, and District Deputies to come together to learn about the new fraternal programs for the 2024-2025 fraternal year and to meet with the State Family and other council leaders.

All council members are welcome to attend this event and it is highly encouraged that councils consider sending some of their potential future leaders to this seminar to help prepare them for leadership roles in the council.

The State Officers, Program Directors and Membership Team

are planning a full weekend of education and information to help make sure that you and your councils get this fraternal year started on the right foot. Topics of training will include Keystone Projects; ICC Updates; Faith, Family, Community, and Life Program Updates; COR and Evangelization & Faith Formation; Reporting; Membership; and more.

If you have any questions regarding the Grand Knight, Financial Secretary, and District Deputy Seminar, please feel free to reach out to me, or with any other questions that you may have.

Mitchell Lowery
State Program Director
mwlowerykc@gmail.com



Get the Word Out about the Knights' Good Works

Please think of us when your council hosts an event or conducts a service project. Send us your event pictures and include a description and council number so we can credit you. While we can't promise every one received will be posted, we do whatever we can.

We have Facebook @NebraskaKofC, Instagram @kofc_nebraska, and Twitter @kofc_nebraska. If you haven't followed us yet, Do Not Be Afraid. The pictures can be sent to Josh at jprichardson248@gmail.com, and Nathan at nrichardson2139@gmail.com.



**KNIGHTS
OF COLUMBUS**
IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.



State Knights of Columbus announces their

Nebraska Knights of Columbus State Golf Tournament

Sunday September 29, 2024
Four Person Scramble



Check in opens at 7:00 A.M

Shotgun start at 8:00 A.M.

Eagle Hills Golf Course

501 Eagle Hills Drive

Papillion, Ne. 68133

402-592-7788

\$80.00 per golfer - Foursomes encouraged

Open to any Catholic age 18 and older

Men 65 and older shoot from seniors' tees

Women shoot from Red Tees

Includes golf cart and steak dinner at the
South Council Hall

4323 Washington, Omaha, NE

Cocktails 12:30 p.m. Ribeye dinner 1:00 pm.

Not golfing? Join us for drinks and dinner for
just \$15.00 per person.

Players in Foursome

Mail reservations and checks to:

Joe Bober
4070 I Street
Omaha, NE 68107

Make Checks to Knights of Columbus

Questions? Call Joe at 402-290-7954

Name	Address	Phone	Parish

Dinner only

Grand Knights, District Deputies, Financial Secretaries and Future Leaders Training

The Seminar is scheduled for the weekend of July 12-14, 2024, in Kearney, NE.

Meetings for the Officers will begin Friday morning, while the District Deputies, Directors and Chairmen will meet Friday evening. Registration and meetings for Council Officers and other members will begin on Saturday morning, July 13, and continue through Sunday, July 14.

An agenda is listed below. Times are tentative.



**LEADERSHIP
SEMINAR
REGISTRATION**
through
EventBrite
[https://
nekc2024JulyTraining.
eventbrite.com](https://nekc2024JulyTraining.eventbrite.com)

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

Holiday Inn
Conference Center
110 2nd Ave.
Kearney, NE

RESERVATIONS
308-237-5971

You must tell them you are
with the Knights of Columbus
to get the special rate.

NEW DIRECTORIES

Each council will receive
two (2) Nebraska Knights of
Columbus Directories, one
(1) each for the Grand Knight
and the Financial Secretary.
There will be no extra copies
available.

Friday, July 12, 2024

5:30 - 7:00 PM
7:30 - 9:30 PM
9:00 - 11:59 PM

State Family Dinner - All paid attendees
District Deputies Meeting
Hospitality Room

Saturday, July 13, 2024

8:00 - 10:00 AM
9:00 - 9:50 AM
10:00 - 11:15 AM
10:00 - 11:15 AM
11:15 - Noon
1:00 - 2:30 PM
12:30 - 2:45 PM
12:30 - 2:00 PM
12:30 - 2:00 PM
2:10 - 2:20 PM
2:20 - 2:40 PM
2:40 - 2:50 PM
2:50 - 4:00 PM
4:00 - 5:00 PM
5:00 - 6:30 PM

Registration / Check-In
Holy Hour
Financial Secretary Training
Grand Knight & District Deputy Training
Lunch
Ladies Program
Financial Secretary Training
Fourth Degree Meeting
Grand Knight & District Deputy Training
Break
Safe Environment Training
Q & A Session / Recap of Day
Directors/Chairmen Available for Questions
Mass Preparation
Mass & Installation of Officers
(Dress: Suit/blazer with tie, slacks)
Social
Dinner
Hospitality Room

6:30 - 7:30 PM
7:30 - 9:00 PM
9:00 - 11:59 PM

Sunday, July 15, 2024

7:00 - 8:00 AM
9:00 - 11:00 AM
8:30 - 8:35 AM
8:35 - 8:45 AM
8:45 - 10:05 AM
10:05 - 10:20 AM
10:20 - 11:00 AM
11:00 - 11:10 AM
11:10 - 11:20 AM
11:20 - Noon

Mass
Financial Secretary Training (if needed)
Grand Knight & District Deputy Training
State Financial Secretary Coordinator
Grand Knight & District Deputy Training
Break
ICC Awards Program / Star Council Requirements
McGivney Foundation Advisors
Insurance
Closing Remarks & Closing Prayer



Intellectual Disabilities Foundation Updates

IMPORTANT >>> NOTICE <<<

Tootsie Roll Industries, Inc. is updating the Knights of Columbus Tootsie Roll Bar with a new shape and wrapper!

With this update is a NEW ORDER FORM for 2024! Councils MUST use the new form to order candy for 2024.

Pricing and quantities are the same as previous years but orders placed using the old form WILL NOT be fulfilled!!

Copies of the new form are available at www.nebraskakofc.org and will be in council packets at the summer meeting!
Start thinking about your candy orders now.

The 2024 Campaign for
People with Intellectual Disabilities
weekend is scheduled for October 10-14, 2024.



BLESSED BENEFITS OF

COR

01

•Fraternity, Faith
Formation, Prayer

02

Offer a Safe Haven for
All Catholic Men

03

Build Catholic Leaders
for Family, Parish,

04

A Journey of Prayer Leading to
an Encounter with Christ

Contact EFF Director Rich Lowery
rwlowerykc@gmail.com, 402-432-6748



Culture of Life Foundation Updates

Pro Life Gala Dinner and Dance

The 2024 Pro Life Gala Dinner and Dance, held Friday, January 5th, at the Embassy Suites in Lincoln, was a great success. President of the March for Life, Jeanne Mancini, was our keynote speaker, she and Angelina Giles, CEO and Nurse Practitioner of Sancta Familia Medical Apostolate, delivered powerful messages. The more than 360 attendees were then treated to live music by Daddy Mack and the Flak and danced the night away. This event raised just under \$50,000 to support many of the pro life and maternity centers in Nebraska.

One Rose One Life Campaign

Again, this year the Nebraska Knights of Columbus delivered a strong message that we indeed support the sanctity of life. This year's drive netted around \$125,000. These funds will be used to support all the State's charitable donations to the pro-life and maternity centers here in Nebraska. If there are councils that haven't sent in their collection from this drive, please do so as soon as possible. A huge thank you to all of you and your councils for supporting this important mission.

Ultrasound Machine Update

It is with great enthusiasm that we announce that with the collective efforts of Beatrice Council 1723 the newest Knights of Columbus sponsored ultrasound machine in Nebraska will be placed at the Willow Center in Bearice. Great job Council 1723! I can also announce that through a private donation from a family on behalf of their deceased mother, we will also be placing a ultrasound machine at the Beginnings Pregnancy Resource Center in O'Neill. Through this family's generosity and our partnership, we will be saving lives in these communities and surrounding areas.

Buck a Month (BAM)

It is not too late to be part of the 2024 Buck a Month drive. Donations need to be to us by the end of June, all BAM checks will be processed, and 50% of a council's donation will be returned to them for their local pro-life activities and support. This is a great way for members to support life in their own communities.

Vivat Jesus,

Michael & Mary Conrad
Culture of Life Directors



"Proclaim the dignity of every human life"

—Patrick Kelly, Supreme Knight

2024 State Bowling Winners

The State Bowling Tournament was held in West Point on Feb. 15, 16, 22 and 23, 2024. There were 13 teams and 54 bowlers. Special thanks to Chris Kreikemeier and his team for hosting. As always everything went well, and everyone had a good time. Results for each event follow.

2024 Nebraska State Bowling Tournament Results

Place HDCP Bowlers Name

All Events

1	2484	Ron Schrage
2	2420	Robert Oligmueller
3	2372	Dave Blum
4	2341	Craig Hunke

Teams

1	3244	Grain States
2	2957	Howells #5439
3	2931	Kaup's Seed

Singles

1	878	Jared Minnick
2	851	Rick Guenther
3	813	Marti Krings
4	806	Bob Haney

Doubles

1	1624	M. Krings/M. Krings
2	1614	C. Hunke/D. Blum
3	1587	C. Wooldrik/R. Oligmueller
4	1578	P. Steuter/R. Guenther



Youth Sports = Hospitality and Fraternity

The 2024 State Free Throw Challenge was a huge success! Special thanks to our hosts at Grand Island Central Catholic High School, the Kearney and Grand Island Knights, as well as the many local Knights' Councils that hosted Free Throw events! Without everyone's efforts, kids would not have this great opportunity to demonstrate their skills, and their families would not have the chance to experience Knights of Columbus hospitality and fraternity.

The State Soccer Challenge is on Saturday, Oct. 26, 2024, at the Schuyler Middle School Indoor Fieldhouse. Registration opens at 12:30 p.m. with competition starting at 1 p.m.

Tim Sealock
State Youth Chairman



2024 NE State Free Throw Championship Results

Div	Name	Council	City	State Score
-----	------	---------	------	-------------

9yr girls, then boys

Winner	Lauren Cole	#14914	Elkhorn	24
Runner Up	Sophie Stewart	#4434	Fairbury	17
Winner	Asher Madej	#6429	LaVista	18
Runner Up	Jake Manzer	#1793	Norfolk	16

10yr girls, then boys

Winner	Brennan Tynon	#1497	Fremont	24
Runner Up	Madden Meyer	#1123	Hastings	15
Winner	Kasen Miller	#1861	Lodgepole	22(shootout)
Runner Up	Brooks Meyer	#1123	Hastings	22

11yr girls, then boys

Winner	Jordyn Werner	#1497	Fremont	19(shootout)
Runner Up	Lauren Connot	#14685	Crofton	19
Winner	Charlie Quicke	#11280	Lincoln	24
Runner Up	John McGowen	#7734	Cambridge	22

12yr girls, then boys

Winner	Kyla Jueneman	#13576	Waverly	19
Runner Up	Kemberlyn Kohle	#5881	Stuart	17
Winner	Peter Casady	#833	Lincoln	22
Runner Up	Eli Axford	#11823	Doniphan	20

13yr girls, then boys

Winner	Marly Mills	#11700	Omaha	18(shootout)
Runner Up	Allyah Griffith	#10184	Omaha	18
Winner	Hudson Hamilton	#12086	Columbus	24
Runner Up	Raeshawn Volk	#1238	Osmond	22

14yr girls, then boys

Winner	Hailey Smalley	#1126	McCook	18
Runner Up	Abbey Backer	#5143	Randolph	16
Winner	James Russel	#11800	Omaha	22(shootout)
Runner Up	Logan Dodd	#4923	Lincoln	22

Jubilee Congratulations

Diocese of Grand Island:

65 Years Fr. Stephen Deaver, Fr. Hugh Spanel

60 Years Fr. James Janovec, Fr. Tom Ryan

55 Years Fr. Francis Curran, Fr. Rodney Pruss,
Fr. James Warner

Diocese of Lincoln:

65 Years Msgr. Adrian Herbek

50 Years Msgr. Liam Barr, Fr. Greg Pawlowski

Archdiocese of Omaha:

65 Years Msgr. Ralph Steffensmeier

60 Years Fr. James Novotny

55 Years Fr. Don Shane

50 Years Fr. Gregory Carlson, Fr. Gerald Gondringer, Fr.
Michael Gutzsell, Fr. Gerald Leise, Fr. David Liewer,
Fr. James Tieg



Be sure to follow the Nebraska Knights of Columbus on Facebook,
Instagram and Twitter and at www.nebraskakofc.org

News from the **NEIL PFEIFER AGENCY****Knights of Columbus Insurance Serving Northeast Nebraska and West Central Iowa**

Ten Seats at the Million Dollar Round Table

Fantastic!
Agents of the Month

January
Noah Pfeifer
Norfolk



February
Kevin Weber
Gretna



March
Steven Smith, II
Omaha

Million Dollar Round Table (MDRT) is the Premier Association of Financial Professionals. MDRT members demonstrate exceptional professional knowledge, strict ethical conduct and outstanding client service. MDRT membership is recognized internationally as the standard of sales excellence in the life insurance and financial services business. MDRT agents rank in the top 3% of financial professionals in the world. Congratulations, men!

Agents from the Neil Pfeifer Agency who qualified for Million Dollar Round Table (MDRT) this year are (from top left to lower right):



Neil Pfeifer
Norfolk



Jeremy Borchers
West Point



Matt Harm
Omaha



Stewart Havranek
Omaha



J Krawczyk
Omaha



Roy Metter
David City



Noah Pfeifer
Norfolk



Kevin Weber
Gretna
(Lifetime)



Jared Heinen
Omaha



Brian Ford
Omaha

Neil Pfeifer, General Agent for Northwest Nebraska and West Central Iowa
402.640.1239 ext. 1 | neil.pfeifer@kofc.org | www.neilpfeiferagencykofcins.com

News from the **TONY SWANSON AGENCY****Knights of Columbus Insurance Serving Southeast, Central and Western Nebraska****Million Dollar Round Table Recognition**

Agents from the Tony Swanson Agency who qualified for Million Dollar Round Table (MDRT) this year are: Brian Almond of Hastings who achieved Court of the Table status, making him the first Nebraska Knights of Columbus agent to achieve that recognition.



Brian Almond
Hastings



David St. Hilaire
Lincoln



Ian Johnstone
Lincoln



Francisco Romero
Lincoln

In addition, David St. Hilaire of Lincoln, Ian Johnstone of Lincoln, and Francisco Romero of Lincoln also qualified! MDRT agents rank in the top 3% of financial professionals in the world.

MDRT is The Premier Association of Financial Professionals. MDRT members demonstrate exceptional professional knowledge, strict ethical conduct and outstanding client service. MDRT membership is recognized internationally as the standard of sales excellence in the life insurance and financial services business.

Congratulations, men!

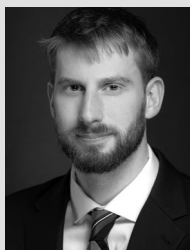
John Paul Berg Joins Swanson Agency

John Paul Berg joined the Swanson Agency in southwestern Nebraska on April 1st. He is a Hastings native and joins the team after serving as a NET missionary for several years, followed by some time in retail shipping.

He will be serving councils in the following communities: McCook (1126), North Platte (1211, 10506, 12530), Orleans (2373), Indianola (2693), Ogallala (4979), Imperial (7081), Cambridge/Arapahoe (7734), Grant (7778), Holdrege (8590), Benkelman/Stratton (10163), and Minden (10335).

John Paul lives in McCook with his wife, Amanda, and they are expecting their first child in July. They are members of St. Patrick's Parish and Council #1126.

John Paul can be reached at 402.705.7455 or johnpaul.berg@kofc.org.

*Great Job!***Agents of the Month**

February
Aaron Schock
Grand Island



March
Aaron Schock
Grand Island



April
Aaron Schock
Grand Island

Are You Looking for a Rewarding Career?

A career with the Knights offers many financial and intangible rewards for the Catholic gentleman who has an entrepreneurial spirit, is hard-working, and desires helping his Brother Knights and their families secure their financial futures.

If you are curious, please call 800-733-8980, Ext. 5, and leave a message. We would be happy to see if a career with the Knights might be a fit for you!

Tony Swanson, General Agent for Southeast, Central and Western Nebraska
402.463.2845 ext. 1 | anthony.swanson@kofc.org | www.swansonagencykofcins.com

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Fraternity

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Elkhorn, NE 68022

IMPORTANT DATES

FORM NO.

June	25	State Directory Updates To: Asst. Executive Secretary	EA-KIT	1	Essay Contest To: Supreme Council CC: Culture of Life CC: District Deputy
ABC/XXX	30	Applications for Vocations Support/RSVP Refund To: Supreme Council		1	July State Per Capita Assmnt To: State Secretary - Schaeffer
10057	30	Food for Families Report/ Refund To: Supreme Council		1	July Supreme Per Capita Assmnt To: Supreme Council
SP-7**	30	**Columbian Award App. To: Supreme Council CC: Exec. Secretary		1	First ICC Reports To: Program Director Lowery To: Supreme Council CC: Exec Secretary
Sept 2629	1	Report of K of C Round Table To: Supreme Council CC: Executive Secretary CC: District Deputy	**May be filed electronically on Supreme Website. SPECIAL NOTE: If you scan and email your reports to Supreme, only send 1 report at a time. Multiple reports slows delivery to the correct office at Supreme. Only send in four (4) form 100's at one time.		
SA-KIT	1	Substance Abuse Poster Contest To: Supreme Council CC: Community Director CC: District Deputy	Ray Guggenberger, Executive Secretary (402) 681-6572 3101 Washington St, #7, Bellevue, NE 68005		