



# Matthew Richardson, State Deputy Knights Courier

December 2022

Vol 51 No 1



## Mid-Year Meeting Recap



The Mid-Year Meeting was held at the beautiful and picturesque setting of the Lied Lodge in Nebraska City. Among the many programs and ideas brought forward during this weekend, there were two presentations that stood out. They were the Aid and Support After Pregnancy (ASAP) program, presented by Culture of Life Foundation (COL) Directors Mike and Mary Conrad, and the Evangelization and Faith Formation (EFF), presented by State Membership Director Richard Lowery, with comments from Supreme guest Kevin Glazier, Manager of Fraternal Training.

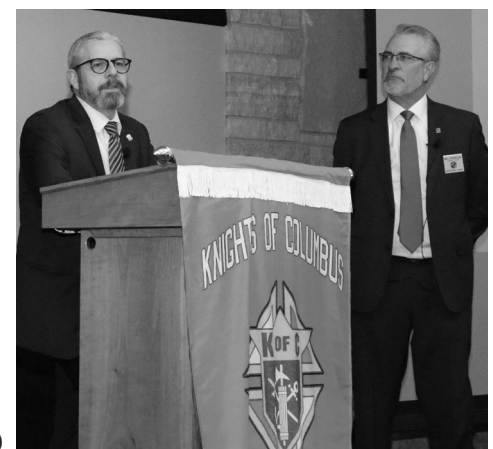


ASAP encompasses the Knights of Columbus' efforts to support pregnant women, mothers and their young children by serving pregnancy resource centers and maternity homes. These pro-life, non-profits are lifelines to women and babies in need. They offer essential services that make the difference between a baby being aborted and a baby being born into a supportive environment. As Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly said: *"One of the most important tasks God has given us at this moment is to advance the cause of life."*



Through the ASAP initiative, Councils can now contribute even more support.

(Continued on page 5)



## Creating Beauty in Broken and Dark Places



Father Justin Fulton  
State Chaplain  
Vicar General  
Moderator of the Curia,  
Diocese of Lincoln

Dear Knights, Wives, and Families:

Peace be with you.

When I was in seminary in Philadelphia, I met a young Catholic artist, who truly brought God's beauty into the world from broken and dark places. She would see the Hand of God in everything, and she attempted to share that knowledge in the art she would create. It was astounding how her spirituality would come into form in art, and her art was both a teaching moment and tremendously beautiful.

One example of her artwork included collecting the broken glass of a vandalized car. She explained that after the police and insurance adjusters had done their work checking out the broken glass and the damage, she collected the glass and created something beautiful from it. In one instance, she took the clear glass, white glass, and red glass from a vandalized vehicle and created a stunning mosaic of the Holy Eucharist from the remnants of the crime.

From the darkness of sin, vandalism, and brokenness, she constructed a soul-touching image of the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist. I remember seeing that piece of artwork, hearing her story of the origins of the glass, and reflecting and praying about how Jesus does that with each and every one of us in His Holy Eucharist.

Let us take time to remember why we exist, why we do our good works, and the "why behind the what" of this Christmas Season and New Year. Let us remember that all of us have brokenness, and that is ok. That is exactly why Jesus became one of us. God became man so that man might become God, as St. Athanasius puts it. May we allow Him into our brokenness so that He may continue to restore and purify us in His Mystical Body of Christ, the Church.

It is my prayer that all of you may know the love of Jesus Christ this Christmas Season and always. May you and all of your families allow Him to live in your homes, in your parishes, in your work, in your rest, and most importantly----in your hearts.

Thank you all for your faith in Jesus Christ, His Sacraments, and His Church! May God bless and keep you always.

St. Joseph, Pray for Us.  
Blessed Michael McGivney, Pray for Us.  
Vivat Jesus!

Cheers,

Very Rev. Justin Fulton  
Vicar General/Moderator of the Curia, Diocese of Lincoln  
State Chaplain, Nebraska Knights of Columbus

## Words from our State Deputy

Brother Knights,

We've just closed the books on another successful Mid-Year Meeting. Kevin Glazier, our Supreme guest and Manager of Fraternal Training, joined the State Leadership Team in presenting a valuable and informative program for District Deputies.

Be sure to read Brian Hamik's full report on pages 1 and 5 for details of the new programs that were discussed.

As some of you know, my father passed away just days before the gathering. And while I was at the meeting, I want to thank everyone who sent condolences and those who stepped in carry the meeting while I attended to our family's needs and Dad's funeral arrangements.

Kevin Glazier's comments during dinner on Saturday hit home with me at this time, but also resonated with all the Knights present. He generously agreed to allow us to print his talk so all could hear this important message.

May God bless you and your families now and throughout 2023.  
Vivat Jesus!



Matt



Matthew R. Richardson  
State Deputy

### **The Difference One Man's Life and "Yes" to God Can Make Kevin Glazier's comments from the 2022 Nebraska Mid-Year Meeting**

*Good evening Worthy State Deputy, Worthy Former Supreme Director, Worthy State Officers, Worthy Past State Deputies, Worthy District Deputies, my brother knights, families, and friends. I bring you greetings from our Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly, the Supreme Officers, and the Board of Directors of the Knights of Columbus. It is truly an honor for me to be here with you tonight.*

*It has been over 10 years since my first DD Mid-Year Meeting. I was sitting where most of you are now.*

*I remember a lot of things about that seminar. I remember being overwhelmed by the amount of information crammed into two days. I remember I'd just met a lot of people and now had to remember all their names, which could be difficult by the way – which I had to do again this weekend, and I hope there isn't a test. I also remember the amount of support I got from everyone there. If I needed help, all I had to do was ask.*

*But of all the things I remember, I don't have a clue who the Supreme speaker was that evening, and I certainly don't remember anything he said. So, acknowledging that fact, if I can't make this speech memorable, I will at least try to make it short.*

*Given the time of year that we are in, I thought it would be most appropriate to share a Christmas story with you. No, not the one with Ralphie getting a Red Rider BB gun, even though that is one of my favorite Christmas movies.*

*My favorite Christmas movie of all time is Frank Capra's classic, "It's a Wonderful Life," starring screen legends, Jimmy Stewart and Donna Reed. The movie is set in the mythical town of Bedford Falls in the 1930s and 40s. Stewart plays George Bailey, a young man who has taken over his deceased father's Savings and Loan. Reed plays his wife, Mary. Other characters in the movie are George's younger brother, Harry, whom George saved from drowning when Harry was nine, and George's forgetful Uncle Billy. The villain in the film is the mean old Mr. Potter, a soulless banker, who only lives for the money he can make off of people.*

*George longs for the day when he can leave the small town of Bedford Falls and see the world. He wants to do big things with his life – really big things. But as the movie progress, George never makes it out of Bedford Falls. Instead, he stays in the town going about his daily life and trying to keep the old Savings and Loan from being taken over by Mr. Potter. But eventually, bad luck befalls George, and he decides that it is better to end his life and leave the insurance money to his family.*

(Continued on page 6)

## Super Successful State Golf Tournament and Save the Dates



Joseph Bober  
Athletics Chairman  
bojober@cox.net

The State Golf Tournament was held on Sunday, September 25, 2022, at Eagle Hills Golf Course in Papillion, NE. Twenty-four teams participated. The winners are:

1st Place, 1st Flight – Dave Kosch, Lois Kosch, Wes Kosch and Kristen Fowler  
2nd Place, 1st Flight – Pat Kappes, Dan Hendrickson, John Eshleman and Lindsay Brummer  
1st Place, 2nd Flight – Dustin Suminski, Mark Suminski, Josh Jones and Ray Scott  
2nd Place, 2nd Flight – Rob Ostdiek, Kevin Ostdiek, Brian Ostdiek and Andrew Ostdiek

A steak dinner and raffle was held after the tournament at the South Council Hall hosted by Council 3019. Over \$3,800 was raised for Catholic Education and Seminarians. A big thank you to all who helped make this fun and successful event possible!

In 2023 the State Council will sponsor three events. Mark your calendars for:

**February 18th, 19th and 25th** is the State Bowling Tournament in Columbus, NE. Please contact Dave at [dave@frontiernet.com](mailto:dave@frontiernet.com) for information.

**June 11th**, we hope to host the I-80 Collar Series in Lincoln. We are looking for a ball field that can seat about 800 people. If you know of a field, please contact me ASAP, so we can get started on this. More information will be in the next Courier. Please inform any Priest you know, so they can plan accordingly.

**September 24th** is the State Golf Tournament for 2023. It will be held again in Papillion, NE, at Eagle Hills Golf Course. We will use the same format as last year. If anyone has any questions, please contact me at 402-290-7954 or e-mail me.

## Prayer for Canonization of Father Michael J. McGivney

God, our Father, Protector of the Poor and Defender of the Widow and Orphan, you called your priest, Blessed Michael J. McGivney, to be an apostle of Christian family life and to lead the young to the generous service of their neighbor.

Through the example of his life and virtue may we follow your son, Jesus Christ, more closely, fulfilling His commandment of charity and building up His Body, which is the Church.

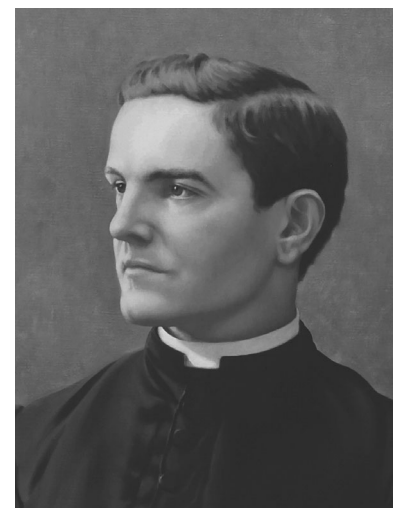
Let the Inspiration of your servant prompt us to greater confidence in your love so that we may continue his

work of caring for the needy and the outcast.

We humbly ask that you glorify your servant Blessed Michael J. McGivney on earth according to the design of your holy will.

Through his intercession, grant the favor I now present  
(Here make your request).  
Through Christ our Lord,  
Amen.

Say one Our Father.  
Say one Hail Mary.  
Say one Glory Be.



Be sure to follow the Nebraska Knights of Columbus on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter and at [www.nebraskakofc.org](http://www.nebraskakofc.org)

## Awards Submission Deadline MARCH 1, 2023

Nominations for the annual awards that are handed out at the State Convention are due by March 1, 2023.

Applications can be found on the State website, (Nebraskakofc.org). On the homepage, click on "Programs," then scroll down and click on the "ICC Belt" (Inter-Council Competition). Click on the corresponding form and follow the directions provided.

Once you have completed all the required fields, scroll to the bottom and click on the submit button. The form will be automatically sent to the proper Directors.

The awards will be presented during the Friday night banquet at the State Convention. Although our programs are not done to receive awards, it is nice to honor those that have taken place to support parishes, priests, and communities.

I know there are many more activities that occur and are worthy of recognition than what we receive. You must submit your form to be recognized.

The State Convention is a great time to reminisce with old friends and make new ones. Your State Officers and Directors will be available to answer any questions you may have about certain programs or activities. Please plan on attending this year!

VIVAT JESUS!

Brian Hamik  
State Program Director



Brian Hamik  
Program Chairman  
blhamik@gmail.com

### Mid-Year Meeting Recap (Continued from page 1)

For every \$500 a Council donates to a *qualifying* pregnancy resource center or maternity home (up to \$2,000), the Supreme Council will donate \$100 more. Additionally, the Culture of Life Foundation will add another \$100 if a council meets or exceeds \$2,000 donated. **Visit [kofc.org/asap](http://kofc.org/asap) for resources and to apply online.**

Evangalization and Faith Formation is being developed by Supreme to revitalize one of the principles that Blessed Michael McGivney envisioned when he founded the Knights of Columbus. The focus of EFF is to enable brother Knights to fraternize, to pray together in groups and to talk to each other "heart to heart."

This program is in the infancy stage. The Jurisdiction of Nebraska is just one of 21 states in the Order to prepare and begin this program. There will be a few "beta" Councils chosen to implement EFF, and their progress and results will be recorded and presented to Supreme before the complete roll out of the EFF program. Updates and more information will be forthcoming.

The ladies, under the guidance of Connie Richardson, State Deputy Matt Richardson's wife, decorated jars for candies that would be given to youth with special needs

as part of Project Lori. People's generosity allowed the program to grow and include last year's recipients at Villa Marie in Waverly, as well as other organizations that care and work with special needs youth.

At the conclusion of the Saturday meeting, St. Benedict's Church in Nebraska City graciously invited the Knights' to their Saturday evening Mass.

The beautiful, small Church held everyone! St. Benedict's is the oldest Catholic Church still standing in Nebraska (1862).

Past District Master Rich Lowery received two rounds of

(Continued on page 12)



## The Difference One Man's Life and "Yes" to God Can Make (continued from page 3)

George goes to a nearby bridge, ready to jump off, when God sends an angel to help. The angel is an awkward fellow named Clarence. He tries to convince George not to end his life. George won't listen and tells Clarence that his life has been worthless, and it would have been better if he had never been born.

Clarence, the angel, decides to show George what life would have been like had George never been born. They head back into Bedford Falls, and much to George's surprise, the town is no longer the quaint town that he remembers, but a run-down seedy place called Pottersville. Mary, his wife, never married and is an old maid librarian. Other things in the town have changed, and not for the better.

As the scene unfolds Clarence takes George to the town cemetery. There, barely visible through the overgrown grass, is the tombstone of his younger brother, Harry. The tombstone shows that Harry died when he was nine.

Not understanding what Clarence has done, George screams that this isn't right. He yells: "THAT'S A LIE! Harry Bailey went to war. He got the Congressional Medal of Honor! He stopped a kamikaze from sinking a ship. He saved the lives of every man on that transport." Then comes the seminal moment in the movie.

Clarence says: "But George, you don't understand. Because you were never born, Harry died that day on the ice. Harry wasn't there to save all those men because you weren't there to save Harry."

And that is when it hits you. The actions of this one-man, George Bailey, changed the lives of not just those he touched but also of so many others. All the men on that ship and their children and their children's children, were alive because of George Bailey. The town of Bedford Falls had thrived because of the kindness of George Bailey. The people he befriended lived full and happy lives because of George Bailey.

As Knights of Columbus and our families, we have opportunities to befriend a lot of people and to help them live full and happy lives. Whether it is handing out coats for kids, raising money for a war-torn country like Ukraine, collecting food for families, supporting Pro-life movements, or helping new mothers through our new ASAP program.

Admiral McRaven, a retired four-star Navy Admiral and now author of several books, shares these words in the beginning of his 2014 commencement address to the graduates of the University of Texas at Austin: "Tonight there are almost 8,000 students graduating from UT. That great paragon of analytical rigor, Ask.Com, says that the average American will meet 10,000 people in their lifetime. That's a lot of folks. But, if every one of you changed

the lives of just 10 people — and each one of those folks changed the lives of another 10 people — and another 10 — then in five generations — 125 years — the class of 2014 will have changed the lives of 800 million people."

I urge all of you to listen to his speech known as, "Make Your Bed." It is only about 20 minutes long, and you will realize that I took some of his words for this speech myself. The speech's theme is how 10 life lessons can change your life for the better.

We should all remember the ripple effect that occurs when we change one person's life. One act of kindness can change the entire trajectory of a person's future. Those solitary acts, when added together, can make a world of a difference. You've got 10,000 chances in life — 10,000 people to meet. What's stopping you from changing their lives? Just like George Bailey affected so many people in Bedford Falls with his kind acts, we as Knights of Columbus can do tremendous acts.

Quoting the words our Supreme Knight, Patrick Kelly: "Where there is a need, there is a Knight." I hope that somewhere in our lives, we were someone's George Bailey, a person who we helped out — that we didn't even know about. At times we might have had to sacrifice, and probably most of the time the people we helped didn't even know who we were as individuals, but they knew us as members of a bigger organization — bigger than just one person. Hopefully we changed everything about their future for the better, and in doing so, changed the lives of so many other people.

It is incredible to think that the actions of one person can affect so many others. Whether it is George Bailey in Bedford Falls, or our founder, Blessed Michael McGivney in New Haven, Connecticut, or the Knights and their families in this great State of Nebraska, one person can change the world for the better.

I would like to finish with one of my favorite passages in the Bible, that comes from the book of Isaiah 6:8-9. "Then I, heard the voice of the Lord saying, whom shall I send and who will go for us? And I said, Here am I; send me!"

I would like to thank everyone here for answering this call of the Lord. Each one of you answered, "HERE I AM, SEND ME!" as did your families. I know that being a member of the Knights of Columbus can take you away from your family at times because there is a time commitment that goes into this hard work. I wanted to say thank you to everyone who answered the call with "SEND ME!"

Merry Christmas and Vivat Jesus!



### Silver Rose Tour 2022

The Silver Rose was delivered from Colorado by Knights on Bikes to Jack Revelle at Gering, NE, on August 13, 2022. The route through Nebraska started in Gering and traveled north to Chadron and then east on Highway 20 to Verdigre, where it zig-zagged south to Chester.

The Silver Rose visited 35 Councils on its tour through Nebraska. It was handed off to the Kansas Knights of Columbus south of Chester on September 18, 2022.



Members present from Nebraska were State Deputy Matt Richardson, District Master Mark Borytsky, District Deputy 23 Roger Retzlaff, and Silver Rose Coordinator Ken Prokop. Representatives from the State of Kansas were the State Deputy, District Master, Vice Supreme Master, Silver Rose Coordinator, and one other Knight.

Thanks to all who participated in any way to make this year's Silver Rose a GREAT success!

Ken Prokop  
State Community Director

### IMPORTANT DATES

FORM NO.

**JANUARY 2023**

1728\*\* Jan 31 Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity  
Supreme Council  
Executive Secretary  
District Deputy

Mar 1 Final State Log Books Reports  
Program Director Brian Hamik

Mar 1 Supreme/State Service Award  
Nominations  
Appropriate State Director

Mar 1 Resolutions - Annual Convention  
State Advocate James Korth

10784 Jan 31 Partnership Profile Report  
with Special Olympics  
Supreme Council  
Executive Secretary  
District Deputy

**The Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity is due to Supreme NLT January 31, 2023.** This report documents our charitable work and keeps The Knights tax exempt. **Please use the new form.**

**FEBRUARY**

1295 Feb 15 Semi-Annual Council Audit  
Report (as of Dec 31, 2022)  
Supreme Council  
Executive Secretary  
District Deputy

**The Partnership Profile Report with Special Olympics is due to Supreme NLT January 31, 2023.** This report documents our charity and time with the Special Olympics. This report determines Nebraska's share of the funds allocated to Special Olympics by our Supreme Council. **A no activity or donation report does help Nebraska.**

Feb 10 Courier Articles Due  
Courier Editor

**\*\*May be filed electronically on Supreme Web site.**

**MARCH**

Mar 1 State Per Capita payment  
State Secretary Bob Wolf

Mar 1 State ICC Forms Submitted  
Program Director Brian Hamik

Ray Guggenberger  
Executive Secretary  
(402) 681-6572  
3101 Washington St, #7  
Bellevue, NE 68005

## Coats for Kids Warms Hearts at St. Augustine School

The Coats for Kids program enjoyed another successful year. Approximately 250 coats were delivered to St. Augustine School in Winnebago, NE, on October 14, 2022.

Eight cases of coats were donated from the following Councils in District 15 that include #1309 Emerson, #3844 South Sioux, #5143 Randolph, #8579 Wayne, and #9939 Ponca. The State Council donated another 12 cases.

Members from the Ponca,



Fr. Beran and Sister Case (center) were among those who received the 250 Coats for Kids coats from the Knights of Columbus.

South Sioux, and Wayne Councils helped unload the cases into the school gym for distribution at a later date.

Father Mark Beran and Sister Deana Case were on hand to receive the coats. The smiles on their faces said it all!

Thanks to all who donated to this worthy cause and helped in any way to keep these children warm this winter!

Ken Prokop  
State Community Director

## Worthy Grand Knights

Please think of us when your council hosts an event or conducts a service project. Please send us pictures from your events and include a description and council number so we can credit you. We can't promise to post each one we receive, but we would sure like to post what 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.



Be sure to follow the Nebraska Knights of Columbus on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter and at [www.nebraskakofc.org](http://www.nebraskakofc.org)

## Blessed Michael McGivney Mass for Canonization



Forty Knights of Columbus and their families attended the Mass to pray for the canonization of Blessed Michael McGivney. It was held on October 10, 2022, at Christ the King Parish in Omaha.

SK Jack Garcia was the chairman of the event, which was sponsored by Assembly 594 and Council 5045. SK Rob Anderson said they have been holding this Mass dedicated to this cause once every other year. Father John Pietramale, pastor of Christ the King Parish, was the celebrant.

The Knights passed out prayer cards with the prayer for his canonization. A cake and coffee reception was held following the Mass.



# 2023 Knights of Columbus Handicap Bowling Tournament February 18-19 and 25

Do not Write In This Space

No.
Pd
Due



Nebraska State Knights of Columbus Men & Women's  
HANDICAP BOWLING TOURNAMENT  
Westbrook Lanes  
West Highway 81 Columbus, Ne 68601  
February 18-19 and February 25, 2023

Handicap: 90% of the difference between the bowler's average and 200  
\$21.00 per Person per Event

Event	Prize	Bowling	Expense	Total
Team	\$35.00	\$52.50	\$17.50	\$105.00
Doubles	\$14.00	\$21.00	\$7.00	\$42.00
Singles	\$7.00	\$10.50	\$3.50	\$21.00

All Events (Handicap) Optional.....\$3.00

Of The City Of \_\_\_\_\_ Please Print or Type

Council No. \_\_\_\_\_

All Events \_\_\_\_\_

Circle \_\_\_\_\_

Bowler No. \_\_\_\_\_

- |   | Avg   |
|---|-------|
| 1 | _____ |
| 2 | _____ |
| 3 | _____ |
| 4 | _____ |
| 5 | _____ |

- Doubles and Singles Events**
- |   |       |
|---|-------|
| 1 | _____ |
| 2 | _____ |
| 1 | _____ |
| 2 | _____ |
| 1 | _____ |
| 2 | _____ |

I hereby certify all bowler are members or wives, widows or daughters of members of the Knights of Columbus in good standing.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Financial Secretary

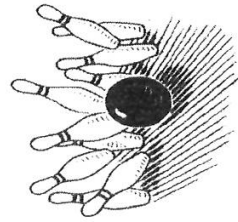
I hereby certify the above averages are current averages in league play.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ League Secretary

**KC STEAK FRY**  
Saturday Nights  
Westbrook Lanes  
**Feb 18 and Feb 25th**  
5:30 to 8:00 pm

**Steak Fry Open to Public**

**Columbus Mass Times Will Be Posted At The Tournament**



**Time Schedule**

Saturdays: Doubles & Singles 11:00am/1:30pm/4:00pm  
Teams 1:30pm/4:00pm  
Sunday (February 19th Only) Teams, Doubles & Singles 11:00am/2:00pm

1st Choice Preferred Date & Time	2nd Choice Preferred Date & Time	NO Entries Scheduled Without Remittance
Team _____	Team _____	
Doubles _____	Doubles _____	
Singles _____	Singles _____	

Name \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

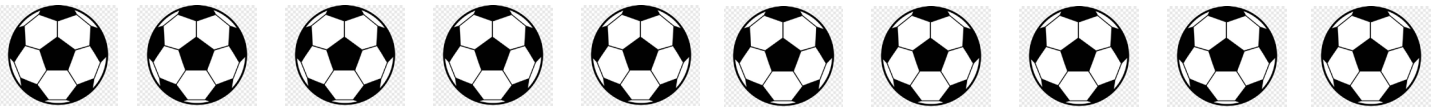
Email address \_\_\_\_\_

All remittances must be made payable to the order of the Knights of Columbus Tournament and mailed to: **John Eckholt, PO Box 1301, Columbus, Ne 68601 402-563-3000**

Positively no entries accepted without payment in full.  
Entries will be scheduled, as to preferred date and time, in the order in which they are received. Make reservations now! Send completed blank later.!

Sponsored by all 3 Columbus Nebraska councils

**All Knights of Columbus Members and Families Welcome!!!!**



## 2022 State Soccer Challenge Winners

The 2022 State Soccer Challenge on October 29, 2022, took place at Schuyler Middle School's indoor facility. There were just over 20 participants ranging in ages of 9-14, based on a child's age at September 1, 2022. It was a fantastic event and the winners are listed below.

Tim Sealock, Youth Chairman

### Jurisdiction Score

Age 9 Girls	Council	City
Elsie Fitzke	11823	Juniata

185

Age 12 Girls	Council	City
Claire Preusker	11280	Lincoln

215

Age 9 Boys	Council	City
Carter Brady	12086	Columbus

170

Age 12 Boys	Council	City
Tanner Reed	6192	Bellevue

245

Age 10 Girls	Council	City
Adelyn Beller	938	Columbus

200

Age 13 Girls	Council	City
Aaliyah Maldonado	12086	Columbus

160

Age 10 Boys	Council	City
Calvin McGregor	11280	Lincoln

235

Age 13 Boys	Council	City
Marcus Phillips	1123	Hastings

160

Age 11 Girls	Council	City
Anya Phillips	1123	Hastings

230

Age 14 Girls	Council	City
None		

Age 11 Boys	Council	City
Christian Brown	1723	Beatrice

365

Age 14 Boys	Council	City
Gabriel Torres	2716	Schuyler

320



## 2023 State Free Throw Contest

Mark your calendars!

The date for the 2023 State Free Throw Contest has been set for April 15, 2023.

This event will again be held at Grand Island Central Catholic High School.

Let's see if we can exceed the 80 contestants from regional winners across the State of Nebraska from 2022.

## 2023 State Convention Program Book Ads

Ads for the 2023 State Convention Program Book will be available during Q1 of 2023.

Prepare now with your ads and watch your email in early February for details,

It's a great way to get the word out about your events, shine a light on a local business, and keep charitable organizations in sight of other Knights across Nebraska!

For more information contact: Don Hypse at 402-369-0814 or hypse@conpoint.com.

***“If not now, when?”***



“If not now, when?” These are the words that the Mother of Jesus spoke to her son before his public miracle at the Wedding at Cana. We have heard these words so many times throughout our lives in Mass, religious education classes and in prayer.

These same words have a significant impact on each of us today when we think or talk about the sanctity of life. If not now, when will we all take a stand for the sanctity of life and show our faith and our beliefs as we live our daily lives.

There are so many opportunities for each of us to do so. Not everyone is comfortable doing peaceful public protests or lobbying to legislative branches for changes, and that’s ok. There are many other options that a person can do that are just as rewarding, if not more effective in this cause.

We can all pray. Pray to end abortion, euthanasia and any other type of physician assisted deaths. By praying, we are uniting ourselves together in faith for the same cause.

We can volunteer at a pregnancy center and assist those who are choosing life. Another option is assisting at a mother’s maternity center. Maternity Centers provide housing for mothers and children who are living on the margins of society as they work to create a path forward for a better tomorrow and a self-sustaining life.

There are other areas to witness our prolife beliefs and another option for supporting the sanctity of life. Caring for the sick and elderly or volunteering at an assisted living facility or a hospital is a big part of standing up for life. As we all age, we all have had family and friends who have needed help at some point to live. This area, while sometimes overlooked, can be vitally important to those who are sick or unable to live on their own. It also offers us an opportunity to do good works of mercy. As Knights, we can host a bingo night, car show, serve meals, take walks or simply visit with those at facilities that take care of the sick and elderly.

No matter what you do, it will have an impact.

So, if not now, when?

Mike and Mary Conrad  
Culture of Life Directors  
4770 Jean Marie Ln.  
Fort Calhoun, NE 68023  
402.779.9913  
mconrad@abnebraska.com



For more information or to print the ASAP handbook visit

<https://www.kofc.org/en/resources/faith-in-action-programs/life/pregnancy-center-support/11371-aid-and-support-guide-book.pdf>

**Nebraska Knights of Columbus State Golf Tournament**

The State Golf Tournament will be held on Sept. 24, 2023 at Eagle Hills Golf Course.

We will use the same format as last year.

If anyone has any questions, please contact Joe Bober at 402-290-7954 or bojober@gmail.com.



## Fourth Degree News – Off to a Fast and Full Start



Mark Borytsky  
Nebraska District Master  
Immediate PSD  
13005 S. 29th Place  
Omaha, NE 68123  
402.212.9612 cell  
mborytsky.cox.net



Worthy Brothers and families,

I was honored on September 1, 2022, to be selected by the Supreme Master and the Supreme Knight to be the next District Master of Nebraska. I am humbled by this honor and accepted this responsibility with unwavering dedication. I would like to take this opportunity and congratulate Former District Master Rich Lowery for his outstanding service to the Fourth Degree. Nebraska was blessed to have him as our District Master.

The short time I've been District Master has been exciting. I have visited Assemblies for installations, meetings, and Masses – one of which was celebrating Blessed Father Michael McGivney in Omaha.

We also held the 4th Annual Nebraska and Iowa Veteran Appreciation Exemplification in Omaha. The support team working the venue, meal, and registration logistics were phenomenal. The State exemplification team was exceptional with their presentations, as we brought in 16 Sir Knights to the Fourth Degree.

I have attended my District Master immersion for our Province of four states hosted by our Vice Supreme Master in Overland Kansas. I was able to meet my brother District Masters from Iowa, Missouri, and Kansas. The business meeting was informative, and we are looking forward to scheduling the next meeting in Nebraska.

The Fourth Degree has so much to offer, giving solidarity and visibility to the Order. The public appearance of Fourth Degree Knights as a Color Corps at religious and civic functions is an important activity for each assembly. They add dignity and pride of Church and Country to any event. We are men of faith devoting so much of our lives to the Church, community, councils, and assemblies as a Knight of Columbus. I look forward to working with you for the continued success of our Nebraska Assemblies and continuing our support to our great State Council.

As we move forward, I'm looking forward to visiting all the assemblies whether it's a Mass, meeting or celebration. I'm also excited to be working beside our State Deputy and State Council. Nebraska is blessed by having a wonderful relationship between our State Council and the Fourth Degree.

I would like to thank the former District Masters and Past State Deputies, whom I've respected for their support and guidance. Audrey and I are blessed to be put in this position, and we look forward to visiting your Assemblies, Councils, and state events soon.

We also hope the joy of Christ's birth fills your hearts now and throughout the coming year!

### Mid-Year Meeting Recap (Continued from page 5)

recognition for his work – one from the State Deputy and one from the new District Master Mark Borytsky and his

wife Audrey.

After a delicious meal at the Leid Lodge, it was off to the hospitality room. At the prompting of a guitar toting DD, the night was filled with song, and all joined in the singing. Sunday morning started with a breakfast buffet and a few sore throats caused by all the singing.

The meeting was completed by noon so all could begin their travel back home.

In Psalm 133, it tells us in the first verse “how good and how pleasant it is, when brothers dwell together as one!” That was certainly true of this meeting!

Brian Hamik, State Program Director



## One Rose One Life Campaign Nebraska's Pro-Life Annual Fundraiser

The Annual One Rose One Life campaign is the Culture of Life Foundation (COL) primary source of income for providing needed funds to pro-life organizations and pro-life activities throughout Nebraska.

There are many ways to support this campaign. The first is through prayer. By praying, we are able to deepen our own personal relationship with our Lord and Savior. Through your prayers and God's intervention, we can help those who have had an abortion or who are contemplating one. Those who have made the decision to follow through with an abortion need our love and compassion. Please remember to pray for the women and men in this situation.

Every donation will be used to help the grass root efforts of supporting life here in Nebraska. With these funds, we will be able to help pro-life centers in defraying expenses that come along with the day-to-day costs it takes to stay open. It will help in making sure there is adequate ultrasound equipment in place for a contemplating mother so that she will make the right decision and choose life. Other ways donations are dispersed include helping send our youth to the March for Life in Washington DC and supporting the placement of pro-life billboards across Nebraska.

One Rose One Life Prayer cards were given to those District Deputies in attendance at the Mid-Year meeting. If you haven't received your prayers cards, please contact your District Deputy or myself, and we will get them to you.

On August 28, 1963, at the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., stood at the steps of the Lincoln Memorial and delivered his "I have a Dream" speech. In this historical speech, Dr. King spoke these words: "We cannot walk alone. And as we walk, we must make the pledge that we shall always march ahead. We cannot turn back." These words were powerful on that day in 1968, and today these words seem to be even more powerful and impactful as we march together for the sanctity of life.

### How to run a successful One Rose One Life Campaign:

- Appoint a chairman.
- Choose a weekend that is close to the anniversary, January 22, 1973, of Roe v. Wade, the Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion.
- Make sure to involve your Pastor. Make there are no conflicts with other parish activities. Get permission to do pulpit announcements, second collections, hand out the prayer card and envelopes, etc.
- Have enough Knights at all Masses to hand out cards, receive donations.
- Participate in the Call for Life Program, information and materials are in the Nebraska Leadership Handbook.

### Where do we send the funds?

- All funds collected MUST be sent to the Knights of Columbus Culture of Life Foundation of Nebraska, as this is a state-sponsored program.
- Funds received before March 1st will be eligible for Council division awards. First and second place awards are presented at the State Convention to the top two Councils in each division for the highest dollar amounts collected.
- Checks written (**PLEASE DO NOT SEND CASH**) from Councils or private donations need to be **made out to the K of C Culture of Life Foundation** and sent to COL Directors, Mike and Mary Conrad (402.468.5847 home/ 402.779.9913 cell/ [ne.kofc.life@gmail.com](mailto:ne.kofc.life@gmail.com)) at: **K of C Culture of Life Foundation, 4770 Jean Marie Lane, Fort Calhoun, NE 68023.**

**The One Rose One Life campaign is NOT to be used as a local Council pro-life fundraising activity. The Buck-A-Month program is designed for local efforts. Details for the Buck-A-Month program are in the Leadership Handbook or at the Nebraska Knights of Columbus website.**

### Upcoming Dates:

- January 2023      Hold annual One Rose One Life Campaign.
- January 2023      Host art contest for the 2024 One Rose One Life Prayer Cad Art Contest.
- January 2023      Pray for those attending the annual March for Life in Washington DC.
- January to April 2023      Hold a Buck-A-Month Drive to establish local pro-life efforts.
- January to March 2023      Solicit essay entries for the 2023 Essay Contest. Theme announced at a later date.

News from the **NEIL PFEIFER AGENCY**

Knights of Columbus Insurance Serving Northeast Nebraska and West Central Iowa

*Awesome!*

## Agents of the Month



July  
Noah Pfeifer  
Norfolk



August  
Brian Ford  
Omaha



September  
Brian Ford  
Omaha



October  
Jeremy Borchers  
West Point

**Jared Heinen Joins the Pfeifer Agency**

Jared Heinen  
Omaha

The Pfeifer Agency would like to introduce our newest Field Agent, Jared Heinen! After extensive training, he will be assisting the Knight of Columbus members with all their fraternal benefits, including life insurance, retirement, and estate planning needs. He will also offer long-term care and disability insurance plans.

Jared, his wife, Kim, and their 2 children reside in Omaha. Jared is a member of Omaha Council 10795. Jared will be serving members in the following Councils in Omaha and surrounding area: 9771 – St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, 10795 – St. Vincent de Paul, 10184 – St. Thomas More, 15101 – St. Pius X, 14914 – Elkhorn and 7034 – Valley.

Jared has great knowledge in customer service and satisfaction. Jared is looking forward to working with the Knights of Columbus members in his area.



*Neil helped Knights Brian Hamik and Rob Ostdeik follow their team at the Mid-Year Meeting.*

**Looking for a great team?  
Consider a career with Knights of  
Columbus Insurance**

Call or Email Neil Today

402-379-0180

neil.pfeifer@kofc.org

**Investments Now Available Through Knights**

If you have a desire to invest in the market, but in a way aligned with your values as a Catholic, Knights of Columbus Asset Advisors may be just what you are looking for!

KoCAA funds follow the same rigorous screening that the Knights of Columbus has used for many years to make sure our investments follow the USCBB guidelines for ethical investing. We have a wide range of model portfolios to match a wide range of investment objectives.

If you are interested, please feel free to contact us, and we will be happy to set up a free

News from the **TONY SWANSON AGENCY**

**Knights of Columbus Insurance Serving Southeast, Central and Western Nebraska**

### Two New Agents Join the Swanson Agency



**Dr. Francisco Romero** joined the Swanson Agency Team on August 1st! He and his wife, Hilaire, live in Lincoln with their 10 children. Francisco has been a long-time philosophy professor with a love for finance. He looks forward to using his knowledge to help members and their families protect their financial futures. Francisco will be serving members in the following Councils in Lincoln and the surrounding area: 833 (St. Teresa's - Lincoln), 6750 (Tecumseh), 7614 (Syracuse), 9704 (St. Mary's - Lincoln), 10000 (Steinauer) 11280 (St. John's - Lincoln), 13576 (St. Patrick's - Lincoln).

**Francisco can be reached at 402.327.1514 or [francisco.romero@kofc.org](mailto:francisco.romero@kofc.org)**



**Matt Becker** joined the Swanson Agency Team on September 1st! Matt recently returned to his hometown of Holdrege after serving 8 years in the Marine Corps. He looks forward to serving Catholic families with the same dedication he showed in serving our country. Matt will serve the following Councils in Southwestern and Western Nebraska: 1126 (McCook), 1211 (St. Pat's - North Platte), 2373 (Orleans), 2693 (Indianola), 4979 (Ogallala), 7081 (Imperial), 7734 (Cambridge/Arapahoe), 7778 (Grant), 8590 (Holdrege), 10163 (Benkelman), 10335 (Minden), 10506 (Holy Spirit - North Platte), 12530 (St. Elizabeth Ann Seton - North Platte).

**Matt can be reached at 308.991.5507 or [matt.becker@kofc.org](mailto:matt.becker@kofc.org)**

#### Interested in a Career Serving Catholic Families?

Knights of Columbus Insurance is always looking for good men to further Fr. McGivney's mission of protecting Catholic families. If you are interested, please contact Tony Swanson via phone or email.

**Tony Swanson, General Agent for Southeast, Central and Western Nebraska**  
402.463.2845 ext. 1 | [anthony.swanson@kofc.org](mailto:anthony.swanson@kofc.org) | [www.swansonagencykofcins.com](http://www.swansonagencykofcins.com)

## of Columbus Asset Advisors (KoCAA)

consultation with one of our Investment Advisor Representatives to assess whether a KoCAA model portfolio is a fit for you.

Please contact:

**Pfeifer Agency** - Neil Pfeifer, Craig Pfeifer, Jeremy Borchers, Roy Metter, and J. Krawczyk.

**Swanson Agency** - Tony Swanson and Ian Johnstone.

### Celebrate! Agents of the Month



July  
Ian Johnstone  
Lincoln



August  
Ian Johnstone  
Lincoln



September  
Brian Almond  
Hastings



October  
Brian Almond  
Hastings

## Intellectual Disabilities Updates

### “Helping People with Special Needs”



Sammi & Stephen Lowery  
Intellectual Disabilities Directors  
402.540.1670  
sglowery82@gmail.com

As the calendar rolls from 2022 into 2023, we get to take a few minutes to look back at all we have done in the past year. We also get to look ahead and start with a clean slate to the new year and all the opportunities that 2023 presents.

This has been an extremely successful year for the Intellectual Disabilities Foundation. Our “Campaign for People with Intellectual Disabilities” 2022 raised over \$175,000, which was distributed across Nebraska to many organizations that do so much to support its citizens with Intellectual Disabilities and their families. We were able to make stronger connections with many of these organizations, as well as receive support from many of our local governments.

In addition to receiving our proclamation from Governor Pete Ricketts declaring the week of October 13-16, 2022, as “Support Citizens with Intellectual Disabilities Week” in Nebraska, we also received similar proclamations from the local governments of Bellevue, Columbus, Norfolk, Lincoln, Omaha, and many other fine locations. We encourage your Council to reach out to your mayor or city council as you prepare for the Campaign in 2023 and ask if they would join the others in signing a proclamation promoting the great work that we do.

Project Lori also saw another successful year in 2022. State Deputy, Matt Richardson and his wife, Connie, spearheaded this worthy cause once again. They expanded it well beyond the reach of the first Project Lori, serving many deserving facilities and individuals across Nebraska. It is impossible not to break into a smile yourself when you see the smiles this project brings to the faces of the individuals receiving gifts, as well as to the many caretakers, family members, and staff of the organizations who serve them. This was truly evident on the faces of the members of the State Family, who were able to help deliver these gifts over the Christmas season. Each of your contributions made this possible, and “thank you” does not even begin to express everyone’s gratitude.

As we roll into January, there are some important deadlines approaching.

A reminder for the Campaign for People with Intellectual

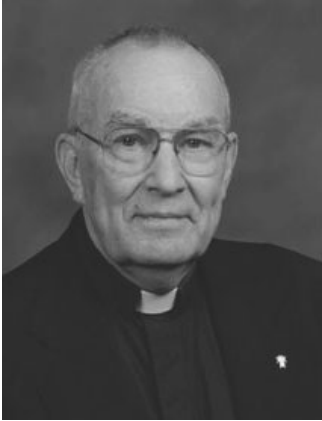
Disabilities: ALL funds that are collected must be sent to the Intellectual Disabilities Foundation Directors along with the completed reporting form. On the form, your council is able to request up to 50% of your collected funds back for a qualifying organization. Both the money and report are due by JANUARY 31, 2022. The form can be found with your Grand Knight, District Deputy or on the state website.

January 31st is also the due date for the Special Olympics activity report to be submitted to the Supreme Council. Each Council should fill out the report using the Faith in Action reporting form on the Supreme website (#10784) to track and report all service hours, as well as financial contributions to Special Olympics, either locally or to the State Council in Nebraska. Even if your Council had no activity with Special Olympics, please fill out and submit the form by January 31st. For each form submitted, as well as the amount of activity and money donated, the State of Nebraska will be presented with a check from the Supreme Council to be given to the Nebraska Special Olympics. The more forms and activity that are submitted, the larger the contribution will be.

Our work as Knights is never done. In Nebraska alone, we are over 25,000 members strong. We encourage you to continue working with the many great organizations who serve individuals and families with Intellectual Disabilities. Continue to build the relationships in your community and see how you can further serve these organizations throughout the year in the form of a special breakfast, volunteering with a project or simply volunteering time to work with the individuals. (continued on page 17)







### Past State Chaplain Msgr. Ivan Vap 1928-2022

Msg. Ivan Vap, who served as Nebraska State Chaplain from 1984 to 1986, was a strong supporter of the Knights, and would always attend the Knights State convention up to two years ago.


Msgr. Vap, a retired priest of the Diocese of Lincoln, died December 14, 2022. He was 94 and the Diocese's longest ordained priest at 68 years a priest. He was also the last priest ordained by Bishop Louis B. Kucera in 1954. Father Vap first served as assistant pastor at St. Joseph parish in Fairbury. He was the last surviving member of the first faculty of Pius X High School in Lincoln, which opened in 1956.

He served in many other capacities in the local Church, including the Diocesan Building Commission and as State Chaplain for the Nebraska Knights of Columbus. He retired from the active ministry in 2004 and for many years substituted in many parishes in Southern Nebraska. At the time of his death, he resided at Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital in Lincoln.

PSD Larry Reed said he most liked that "Msgr. Vap loved the Knights, and he was down to earth. He looked forward to the K of C State Convention every year. No former State Chaplain had attended the State Conventions as much as Msgr. Vap did. He also really enjoyed the Past State Deputy Breakfast on Saturday mornings of our Conventions."

Msgr Vap loved farming. He was an outstanding wood worker. During his term as State Chaplain, he built the most beautiful Grand Father Clock and then gave it to then State Deputy Richard Batenhorst. Msgr. Vap also built his own casket for his funeral. When he retired, he lived in a small acreage near Hastings. Because of health issues, he later moved to Lincoln. He was proud of his Czech heritage.

A Vigil/Rosary was held on December 18th at Butherus-Maser-Love Funeral Home in Lincoln. Mass of Christian Burial was on December 19th at the Cathedral of the Risen Christ, in Lincoln.



Be sure to follow the Nebraska Knights of Columbus on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter and at [www.nebraskakofc.org](http://www.nebraskakofc.org)

## Intellectual Disabilities Updates (Continued from page 16)



If you need help establishing a connection with a local organization, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. We will be happy to assist.

We want to encourage you to start thinking about your 2023 Campaign for People with Intellectual Disabilities. Work with your local businesses to see which are willing to let you hold the drive at their locations. Start discussing how much candy your Council may need to order so that you can submit the order early and not have delays in receiving the candy. Brainstorm new and different ideas with your members on how to get them and their families involved for an even greater impact.

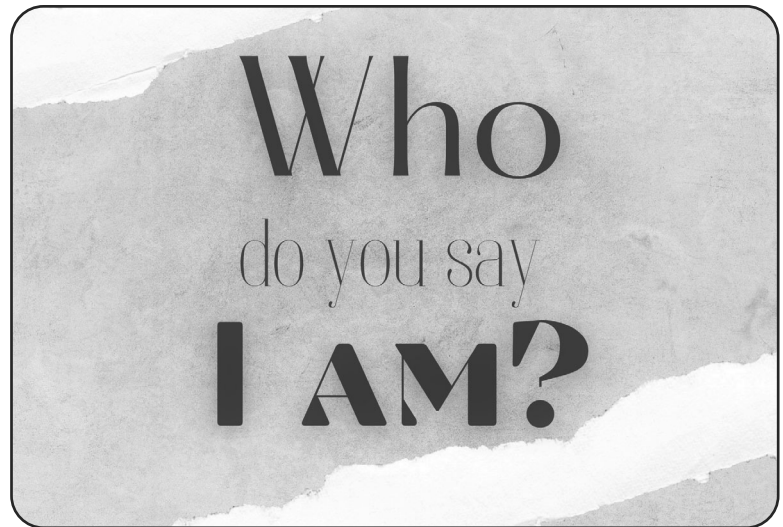
God Bless each of you and the work you do. Many blessings for the New Year to each of your families as well.



## Members as Disciples

In today's world, are you willing to step outside your comfort zone to engage another man, another family, about their faith and about our Lord Jesus Christ? Are we today afraid to speak out about Christ for fear of "offending" someone? Do others know who Christ is through you?

Blessed Fr. McGivney was not afraid to go out and openly proclaim our Catholic faith. He was not afraid to speak up for the right and the good and to acknowledge that the Church was the source of that right and good, following in Christ's footsteps. (After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others whom he sent ahead of him in pairs to every town and place he intended to visit. (Lk 10:1))



Blessed Fr. McGivney knew the answer to Christ's question "who do you say that I am?" (When Jesus went into the region of Caesarea Philippi\* he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" They replied, "Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter said in reply, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." (Mt 16:13-16))

This was the basis for his founding of the Knights of Columbus. A Catholic, Family, Fraternal organization that would protect men and their families both spiritually and financially. He knew well the perils of his day and foresaw the perils we face today. He built an organization that has stood the test of time where men are spiritually fed and in turn can feed their families with the love and joy of Christ.

Each of us is charged at our baptism to be priest, profit and king. We need to give away our faith and support our fellow man as we walk through these times of trial. Blessed Fr. McGivney has provided a framework for just this mission. Through our Order, we have the abilities to teach and support Catholic families as they walk each day in a more secular world, that for many puts self-gratification above caring for others.

Make your Council a refuge for Catholic men and their families by offering each Catholic man and family the opportunity to join our Order. Your District Deputies and Regional Growth Directors will be scheduling the Exemplification of Charity, Unity and Fraternity in your district at least once a month. Take this opportunity to invite your fellow Catholics to join our Order, founded by a Holy and Blessed Priest to protect them, encourage them, and teach them the Faith that we all hold so dear.

May the newborn babe in the manger spark each of us to humbly follow him and to serve others, now and in the coming year.



Vivat Jesus,

Richard Lowery, PSD, FDM  
State Membership Director  
rwlwerykc@gmail.com



Be sure to follow the Nebraska Knights of Columbus on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter and at [www.nebraskakofc.org](http://www.nebraskakofc.org)



Daniel Wells, CPA  
CFE, CGMA



Don Ferneding  
PSD

Foundation Advisors

## A New Resolution

Consider a new New Year's Resolution...  
Make a monthly gift to the McGivney Foundation  
and help others in need.

Foundation Value \$680,874.60 (8-31-2022)

GOAL: \$1,000,0000

Nebraska State Council McGivney Foundation  
PO Box 98  
Elkhorn, NE 68022

## Nebraska State Council McGivney Foundation Types of Gifts

### Cash Gifts

To make a cash gift, make a check payable to Nebraska State Council McGivney Foundation, and send to PO Box 98, Elkhorn, NE 68022. Or you can make an on-line gift at [www.catholicgift.org](http://www.catholicgift.org). On the Southern Nebraska home page hit the DONATE button, follow the prompts to the drop-down menu where you will find the Nebraska State Council McGivney Foundation, and then make either a one-time gift or a recurring gift via electronic funds transfer (EFT), or your credit card.

### Gifts of Stock or Mutual Funds

To make a gift of stock or mutual funds, contact the Catholic Foundation of Southern Nebraska at 402-488-2142, or send an email request to [chris-raun@catholicgift.org](mailto:chris-raun@catholicgift.org). He will provide you with the instructions you need to transfer stock or shares of mutual funds directly to the Nebraska State Council McGivney Foundation.

### Gifts of Grain

If you own grain that you would like to donate to the Nebraska State Council McGivney Foundation, call Chris Raun or Claire Pohlen at the Catholic Foundation of Southern Nebraska. They will provide you with simple instructions for a grain donation. If your local elevator or coop does not already have a Catholic Foundation of Southern Nebraska account, call Chris Raun at 402-488-2124, and one will be immediately opened to receive your gift (transfer of grain). The Foundation's account will receive the donation, the grain will be immediately sold and a check will be sent directly to the Catholic Foundation for depos-

it into the Nebraska State Council McGivney Foundation. There will be no fees charged by the Catholic Foundation to reduce your gift.

### Memorials

People often struggle to decide where memorial money should be directed at their deaths. For an active and committed member of the Knights of Columbus, the Nebraska State Council McGivney Foundation is a natural choice for memorial gifts or planned estate gift. Memorial gifts to the Nebraska State Council McGivney Foundation will be a gift of principal, which when endowed will continue to generate ongoing gifts to the charity every year into perpetuity. It is a one-time gift that becomes an ongoing legacy gift.

### Gift Acknowledgment

In all cases, once your gift is received, you will receive a gift acknowledgment letter. With the exception of grain donations, you can use the acknowledgment letter to claim a charitable deduction from your income tax. In the case of a grain donation, the acknowledgment letter will confirm and thank you for your gift. Once sold, the value of the grain sold will constitute your gift, and you will not have to pay income tax on the value of the grain donated.

### Questions

For further information on any and all types of gifts that can be made to the Nebraska State Council McGivney Foundation, call Chris Raun or Claire Pohlen at 402-488-2124 or email Chris at [chris-raun@catholicgift.org](mailto:chris-raun@catholicgift.org).

**Charity      Unity      Fraternity      Patriotism**



**25,000 MEMBERS STRONG!**

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*O Come Let Us Adore Him!*

