

# Nebraska State Council Knights of Columbus



**2025 - 2026**

## **STATE PROGRAMS BOOK**

*State Deputy* Mike Schaeffer  
*State Chaplain* Rev. William Cremers  
*State Program Director* Kevin Ostdiek  
*State Membership Director* Rob Ostdiek

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## **STATE DEPUTY – MIKE SCHAEFFER**

Meet the Schaeffer's... Shelly and I have been blessed to share 34 years of marriage. We have two children - our son Garrett and our daughter Taylor (married to Jake), who have given us a sweet granddaughter Averie and is expecting a baby boy in August. I retired from the Air Force in 2010 after 24 years of active duty and then transitioned to an Air Force Civilian in 2011. My family and I have lived in Bellevue since 2005 when the Air Force moved us from Nellis AFB NV back to Offutt AFB.



I joined Council 11879 in Bellevue in 2001, joined Assembly 1854 in 2011, and was a charter member of Assembly 3486 in 2014. I have held various positions within my Council such as Grand Knight, Deputy Grand Knight, Membership Director, and Trustee of both my Council & Assembly. I served on the old 1st Degree team and now serve on my Council's Charity, Unity and Fraternity Exemplification team.

I was appointed Program Director by Past State Deputy Lou Gasper in 2017 and was elected State Warden in 2019. I have served as State Warden, State Treasurer, and State Secretary before being elected State Deputy during the 2025 State Convention.

As our next State Deputy, I chose Saint Matthew the Evangelist as my Patron Saint and adopted the motto: "Evangelize our Family and Community". I selected Saint Matthew the Evangelist for the significant role he played in spreading the message of faith, something I strive to do in my own life.

Here are my top priorities for this Fraternal Year:

**Strengthening Our Faith / Vocations for Religious Life:** We will deepen our commitment to living the Gospel values and growing in holiness through prayer, service, and action.

**Expanding Our Charitable Works:** We will continue to support our parishes, local communities, and those most in need through acts of charity and kindness.

**Building Brotherhood:** We will focus on growing our Order through strong Council and Assembly Programs, ensuring each Knight feels part of a larger mission.

As we begin this new chapter, I humbly ask for your prayers. Please pray for Shelly & me, State Chaplain Fr. Bill Cremers and our entire State Team that we may be guided by the Holy Spirit in all we do.

St. Matthew the Evangelist, Pray for Us!

Vivat Jesus,

Michael "Schaeff" Schaeffer  
Nebraska State Deputy

## **STATE CHAPLAIN - FR. WILLIAM CREMERS**

Hello! I am Fr. Bill Cremers, a priest of the Archdiocese of Omaha and currently serving as an associate pastor of "Padre Pio Parish Family Group": St. Patrick in Fremont, St. Charles Borromeo in North Bend, St. Leo in Snyder, St. Lawrence in Scribner, and St. Rose of Lima in Hooper. I grew up in Columbus with my parents Jim and Marlene and my sister Carly (now married to her husband Chris). We attended St. Anthony parish, and I went to grade school there and then middle/high school at Scotus Central Catholic.



During high school, while attending retreats, learning about the faith from great priests and teachers, and growing in friendships with friends who encouraged me in faith, I began discerning a call to the priesthood. After graduation, I became a seminarian for the Archdiocese of Omaha and attended Conception Seminary College and Kenrick-Glennon Seminary, and Archbishop Lucas ordained me as a priest on June 1, 2019. I have served in Fremont since then, and I've been blessed to continue formation by completing the Encounter Online School of Ministry and receiving a Doctorate of Ministry from Global Awakening Theological Seminary.

I am grateful to have been asked by Mike Schaeffer to serve as State Chaplain for the Nebraska Knights of Columbus for the next two years. Both of my grandfathers, Ray Bonk and Joe Cremers, and my father were all active in the Knights. I became a Knight after graduating from Scotus, and I was able to participate in council activities throughout seminary. I am very grateful to the Knights for all of your support for me and all other priests and seminarians, and it has been great seeing first-hand how my local councils have served our communities in many great ways. I am excited to see how the Lord continues to lead the Knights of Columbus in Nebraska, and I am particularly hopeful for the COR initiative that we are undertaking. Please be assured of my prayers for all of you, and I look forward to getting to know more of you over the next years. God bless!

## **SUPREME CHAPLAIN'S MONTHLY CHALLENGE**

Each month, Archbishop William Lori – Supreme Chaplain of the Knights of Columbus – selects a brief passage from the Gospel reading of one of the Sunday Masses of the month. Archbishop Lori shares a brief reflection on the passage and issues a challenge for men to live by for the month. The next month, men undertaking the challenge as a group gather and share their experiences living the challenge.

The Supreme Chaplain's Monthly Challenge is ideally done during monthly Knights of Columbus meetings but can be done in a separate group or individually. By taking up the Supreme Chaplain's Monthly Challenge, men take direct, concrete action to grow in their faith and help their brothers do so as well.

The Supreme Chaplain's Monthly Challenge can be found on the State Website ([nebraskakofc.org](http://nebraskakofc.org)) by selecting the banner at the top of the home page.

## **EVANGELIZATION & FAITH FORMATION DIRECTOR - RICHARD LOWERY, PSD, FDM**

Rich has been a Knight of Columbus for over 40 years. He has held various positions in both the local Council, Assembly, and State Council including State Deputy and District Master. Rich and Gail have been married for 42 years. They have four sons, Mitchell, Stephen, Patrick and Andrew, two daughters-in-law, Sammi (Stephen) and Kat (Andrew), three grandsons, Tommy, Charlie, and Ollie (Stephen and Sammi) and a fourth grandchild on the way in July (Andrew and Kat). Rich has been an instituted Acolyte for 25+ years and has served as Master of Ceremonies for Blessed Sacrament Church in Lincoln for many of those years. Rich works full time for the largest banking financial technology, credit card issuer/processor and payment processor in the world as a risk and compliance analyst in Regulatory Compliance and Gail works for Lincoln Public Schools.



### **Contact:**

Richard Lowery, PSD, FDM  
5011 Woodhaven Dr. Lincoln, NE 68516  
402-432-6748 rlowerykc@gmail.com

### **COR MISSION:**

To help focus Catholic men on Jesus by building Christ-centered brotherhood through a simple, flexible framework of prayer, formation and fraternity.

### **COR VISION:**

To aid in transforming the hearts of men through Christ-centered brotherhood. Rooted in prayer, formation and fraternity, men will be sharpened in faith and virtue as they cultivate authentic friendships with Christ and each other. We envision a future where COR continuously helps sustain these men to lead their families, strengthen their parish communities and courageously evangelize the world as missionary disciples of Jesus Christ.

Faith is the foundation of our Catholic life. Faith in God, faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, and faith in the Holy Spirit. But where does faith come from? How do we keep it and how do we help it grow? Many of us are blessed to be born in the faith with loving parents who teach us and lead us on our journey. Many of us are blessed to be called to the faith later in life, either by a partner, a friend, or the example of someone God has placed in our lives. In either of these cases, there are many supporting roles, Priests, religious, family, friends, and many others who help us along the way.

Faith comes from many sources, but once we have started the journey, how do we keep it moving? Faith is meant to be living. If faith were a one-time thing it would be easy. Once we had it, we would be done. Faith is meant to be alive. It needs to be nurtured. It needs to be watered and protected. Watering our faith can come in many forms: Mass, adoration, reading, sharing. All of these are great ways to maintain our faith.

For many things, however, faith included, maintaining is not enough. The status quo becomes boring and stale. Nothing new, nothing exciting, nothing challenging. Like plants, faith needs to be fed to grow. Learning new things, deepening or forming new relationships, asking questions, these are all ways that faith can grow. All things bring us back to how. How do we learn more about our faith? Where do we go to ask questions?

The Knight of Columbus, through our Evangelization and Faith Formation opportunities provide many ways for Catholics, and non-Catholics, to learn more about their faith. To encounter Jesus Christ. To learn about and understand the struggles and joys of the saints. To understand the Mass and to deepen our understanding of the Holy Eucharist as the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The greatest gift that we can give is to give away our faith. That does not necessarily mean standing on a street corner or writing a book. Giving away our faith can be as simple as doing our best to follow in Christ's footsteps in our daily lives. Sharing the joy that we feel each time we receive Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist. Listening to someone in need and supporting them as they journey through difficult times. All these things are part of evangelization.

The second part, faith formation, is something that Fr. McGivney planned for when he conceived the Knights of Columbus. Not only were widows and orphans in need of support, both spiritually and financially, but our Catholic faith was in danger as families were separated not only from each other but also from their faith. Without the family unit and the father, the faith was being lost. Fr. McGivney knew that Catholic men needed not only the financial means, but the spiritual means, to keep families together.

Today, the Knights of Columbus are returning to Fr. McGivney's ideal of faith formation with COR (Latin for Heart) – Christ Centered Fellowship. The gathering of Catholic men is an opportunity to grow in faith. An opportunity to build friendships that will help them become better leaders for their family, their parish, and their community. COR is the fulfillment of Fr. McGivney's vision for the Knights of Columbus to be a Catholic, Family, Fraternal organization.

COR is not a program. COR is not a checkmark for an award or to meet a goal. COR is designed to give every Catholic man a place to encounter Jesus Christ and to build and grow their relationship with him. COR is an opportunity to join likeminded men in solving the problems that face all of us today as we try to raise our families in a world that is much more focused on what is good for me instead of what is good for all.

Every council, with their Pastor, should provide a COR opportunity for all the men of their parish. COR is not another meeting. COR is a gathering in faith and fraternity. COR builds on three simple elements: Fraternity, Faith Formation and Prayer. A man does not have to be a Knight to be a part of COR. Just as every Catholic man should have the opportunity to be a Knight, every Catholic man should have the opportunity to be part of a COR gathering.

If your Council would like to learn more about COR or would like to start a COR gathering in your parish, visit the Knights of Columbus website at [www.kofc.org/COR](http://www.kofc.org/COR). There are multiple free resources to help you start and run your COR gatherings. There are also resources that your council may purchase to help you with the faith formation element of the gathering. The first step is to identify your Council EFF Director. Doing so will allow them to start getting regular updates about EFF and COR and to access all the resources, including Formed.org, to facilitate the faith formation part of COR.

Please contact me if you have questions about COR or would like me to come and speak to your Council or your Pastor about starting a COR gathering for your Parish.

Vivat Jesus

## **STATE ADVOCATE - JAMES KORTH**

James Korth was born and raised in Hastings, Nebraska. He attended Hastings St. Cecilia High School, from which he graduated in 1996. He attended Hastings College and later the University of Nebraska College of Law, from which he graduated with a Juris Doctorate degree in 2003. He has, since that time, worked as a trial attorney in Ogallala, Nebraska. The current iteration of his law firm is Reynolds Korth & Samuelson PC LLO. James is a former President of the 11<sup>th</sup> Judicial District and Keith County Bar Associations, a former member of the Nebraska Bar Association House of Delegates, and a graduate of the Nebraska Bar Association's Leadership Academy. He is licensed in both the State of Nebraska and the State of Colorado.



James is married to Kami (m. 2015). They are the parents of Joslyn (b. 2016), James (b. 2018), and Jackson (b. 2020). They attend St. Luke's Catholic Church in Ogallala and James is a member of the St. Luke's Council. James became a Knight of Columbus on July 30, 2015, advanced to the Third Degree on October 29, 2017, and became State Advocate in July of 2019.

### **LEGAL INFORMATION**

#### **Importance of Filing a Form 990**

Each year, a tax-exempt organization must file an information return or notice with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), unless an exception applies. Form 990 is the primary tool with which the IRS gathers information about tax-exempt organizations. Any organization that fails to file the required information return (Form 990, Form 990-EZ, or Form 990-PF) or e-Postcard (Form 990-N) for three consecutive tax years will automatically lose its tax-exempt status. Form 990 is due on the 15th day of the 5th month following the end of the organization's taxable year. For organizations on a calendar year, Form 990 is due on May 15th of the following year.

Resources to assist in filling out the Form 990 are available online at <https://www.irs.gov/forms-pubs/about-form-990>. This website, maintained by the IRS, presents Form 990 in PDF format, as well as provides instructions for completing Form 990. If you encounter any difficulty in preparing Form 990, it is recommended that you consult a certified public accountant or attorney for assistance.

#### **Liability Insurance for Council Activities**

Before hosting any event open to the general public, it is imperative councils procure liability insurance with adequate coverage limits. It is equally critical that councils add the Nebraska State Council as an additional insured, as well as any other entity directly involved with the event in question *e.g.*, church, school, etc.

The Knights of Columbus Supreme Council has recommended the following firm for your liability insurance needs:

Lockton Affinity, LLC  
PO Box 410679  
Kansas City, MO 64141  
Phone: 913-652-5705



## Home or Holding Company

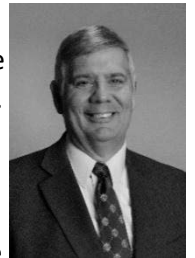
A home or holding company is a company that doesn't conduct any operations, ventures, or other active tasks for itself. Rather, it exists for the purpose of owning assets, such as real estate, and can act as a liability shield protecting such assets from adverse litigation against a related operating entity. As such, any council that owns real estate, such as a building, and wishes to protect that asset from adverse litigation should consider forming a home or holding corporation. A home or holding company may take the form of a corporation, limited liability company, or other qualified entity. Creating a legal entity such as a home or holding company is a complex process with multiple important considerations. Seeking the assistance of an attorney and certified public accountant is recommended.

## Resolutions

Each year, the State Advocate issues a letter to all subordinate councils providing a deadline within which all proposed resolutions for that Columbian year must be submitted for consideration at the State Convention. After that deadline has passed, the State Advocate provides all subordinate councils with a list of the resolutions to be considered at the State Convention that Columbian year. At the time of the State Convention, the State Advocate presides over a Resolutions Committee, which reviews all proposed resolutions and determines which resolutions will be recommended for approval by the membership body during the business meeting at the State Convention.

## STATE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY – MIKE VAUGHN

Mike Vaughn will be taking over as the Executive Secretary this year after serving as the Financial Secretary Coordinator Co-Chairman or Chairman for the last several years. Mike became a member of the Knights of Columbus in November of 2010. Shortly afterward he became his Council's Financial Secretary. He has been the Financial Secretary ever since. He has also been the Publicity Chairman, Program Director, Outside Guard, Intellectual Disabilities Chairman, and One Rose, One Life Chairman. Mike is a member of the First-Degree team, and in October of 2016 he became a Fourth Degree Knight. He retired from the Air Force in 2010 after 30 years of service. Pat and Mike have been married since 1979 and have four sons, three fantastic daughters-in-law, and five wonderful grandchildren. They are active members of the Church of the Holy Spirit in Plattsmouth. He is a lector, and he has served as a member of the Parish Council.



## HELPFUL HINTS FROM OUR STATE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

**\*\*REPORT OF OFFICERS FORM 185:** You must have a Grand Knight, Deputy Grand Knight, Treasurer, Chancellor and 3 Trustees. If filing this report online (The preferred method) with the Member Management system, pay careful attention to the top of the report indicating which fraternal year you are reporting on. This report is also how you make a change from previously reported information.

**\*\*REPORT OF SERVICE PERSONNEL FORM 365:** Provide as much information as you have, the report does not need a name in every position. There are five required positions, Program Director, Family Director, Community Director, Membership Director, and Retention Chairman. These five positions are needed to comply with the Youth Protection Program. If filing this report online (The preferred method) with the Member Management system, pay careful attention to the top of the report indicating which fraternal year you are reporting on. This is also how you make a change from previously reported information.

If you use the Member Management system for the above two reports, you will need to go to print Center -MM after completion to create a "Next Fraternal Year Officer" and "Next Fraternal Year Service Program Personnel" Reports. These reports are automatically created as a .PDF file. Email the .PDF to the Executive Secretary.

***\*\*Completion of these two forms will place your officers and directors on Supreme's mailing list to receive the "Knightline" and other informative items.***

**SPECIAL NOTE:** If you choose to use the reports in Officers on-Line, only submit one report at a time via email. Submitting multiple reports slows the process down in recording your report at Supreme. When submitting Form 100's to membership records, only send in four (4) at one time.

**SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT OF AUDIT FORM 1295:** This report ensures that your council's FS and Treasurer retain the bonds provided by Supreme at no cost to your council. **REMEMBER, THE "AS OF DATE" IS NOT THE DATE YOU ARE PREPARING THIS REPORT.**

**PRAYER REQUEST GUIDELINES:** The State Council has developed a database of email addresses for our Councils, Assemblies, etc. We are happy to forward any requests for prayers for our extended Nebraska State Family. We do need to keep the request simple and to the point. As an example:

"Request prayers for Brother X's wife who is having heart surgery. Brother X is from Council XXXX in Omaha."

Requests for these prayers should be forwarded to Executive Secretary, Ray Guggenberger at [rguggenberger@cox.net](mailto:rguggenberger@cox.net). No other types of solicitations, such as fundraisers, will be forwarded through this email list. We request that each Council, Assembly, etc. forward these requests on to their members. It is the policy not to repeat prayer requests unless there is a change to the request.

A good practice is to copy and paste into a new email. Just think: if every recipient says a few prayers, how many prayers the Nebraska Knights of Columbus members will generate for these special intentions. Please ensure that Ray's email address is in your contacts list or safe senders list.

**STATE DIRECTORY:** The executive secretary is also responsible for preparing and keeping up to date the state directory. The state directory is a crucial document in helping the state officers ensure that local councils are successful. Periodic updates are forwarded to help keep the directory current. Executive Secretary Mike Vaughn is responsible for the directory, submit updates to Mike at [michael.vaughn@windstgreanm.net](mailto:michael.vaughn@windstgreanm.net). We also provide a link to send in this information electronically in the updates.



## **SUPREME REPORT DUE DATES**

185.....	Report of Officers .....	June 30 **
<b>365 .....</b>	<b>Service Program Personnel Report.....</b>	<b>June 30 **</b>
1295-2.....	Semi-Annual Audit Report (Period End June 30) .....	August 15
	Supreme Per Capita Assessment.....	September 1
<b>1728.....</b>	<b>Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity.....</b>	<b>January 31 *</b>
10784.....	Partnership Profile Report-Special Olympics.....	January 31
	(This is now on the Faith in Action Report Form Only)	
1295-1.....	Semi-Annual Audit Report (Period End December 31) .....	February 15
	Supreme Per Capita Assessment.....	March 1
2863.....	RSVP Refund and Plaque Application.....	June 30
10057.....	Food for Families Refund Application .....	June 30
<b>SP-7 .....</b>	<b>Columbian Award Application .....</b>	<b>June 30 *</b>
2630.....	Annual Report of K of C Round Table .....	June 30
10784.....	Family of the Month Submission Form .....	Monthly – As Needed
	(This is now on the Faith in Action Report Form Only)	
11077.....	Fraternal Benefit Seminar Form .....	As Needed
10784.....	Fraternal Programs Report Form.....	As Needed **

\* These Reports may only be submitted by members in certain roles as designated on the Form 185 and Form 365

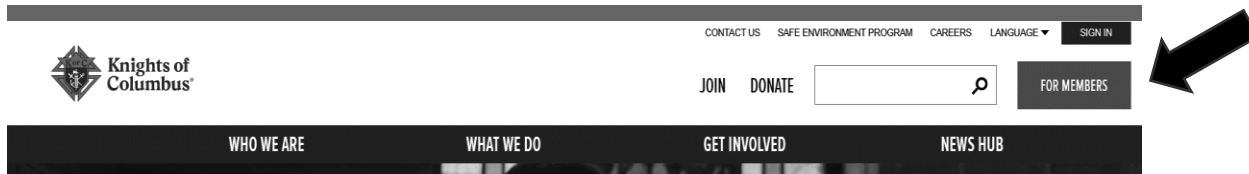
\*\* These Reports may (and should) be submitted through Officers Online by the Grand Knight or Financial Secretary

- All other reports may be downloaded or submitted by any council member

**Reports in bold are required for Star Council**

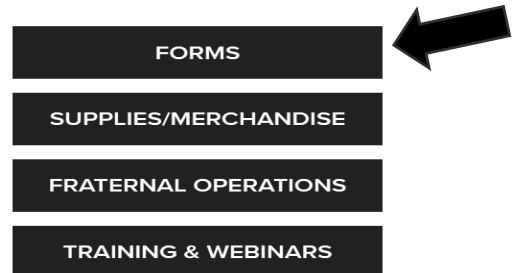
## WHERE TO FIND SUPREME REPORTS

Start at the Supreme website: [www.kofc.org](http://www.kofc.org)



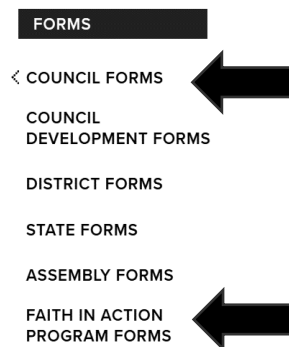
Click on the **FOR MEMBERS** button

Scroll down on the page until you find the buttons (shown on the right) towards the right side of the page.



Click on the **FORMS** button.

Form Number	Council Form Name	PDF	Online (Preferred Method)	Due Date
#365	Service Program Personnel Report	PDF	Online (Preferred Method)	7/1
#1295	Semiannual Council Audit	PDF	N/A	2/15
#1295	Semiannual Council Audit	PDF	N/A	8/15
#1728	Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity	PDF	Online (Preferred Method)	1/31
#SBMMA	State Blessed Michael McGivney Award	PDF	N/A	3/31
#185	Report of Officers Chosen for the Term	PDF	Online (Preferred Method)	6/30



Navigate to the Form you need using the tabs on the right of the screen. All forms needed for your council will be found by clicking on the “Council Forms” or the “Faith in Action Program Forms” options. You will have the option to choose between the PDF Form or, in most cases, the Online (Preferred Method).

When you choose the Online method, you will then either be asked to enter your Membership Number and Last Name or navigate to Officer’s Online to submit these forms. If you can enter your number and name, you will receive an email with a link to the form. The Form #10784 (Fraternal Programs Report Form) can be found under the Faith in Action Program Forms section and can be submitted by any member of the council.

**Do not use forms located on the STATE FORMS section of this page. These are for the State to use when submitting to the Supreme Office. All forms needing to be submitted for your council can be found on the COUNCIL FORMS or FAITH IN ACTION PROGRAM FORMS tabs.**

## HOW TO FILL OUT SUPREME REPORTS

You will notice on the Supreme website that there are usually two types of formats for each form, PDF and Online. To use the Online version, you will either be asked to enter your Membership Number and Last Name (for forms like the SP-7 or 1728) or navigate to Officer's Online (for forms 185 or 365) to submit these forms.

If you are prompted to navigate to Officer's Online, be aware that only the Grand Knight and Financial Secretary will be able to access and submit those forms. If you are prompted to enter your Membership Number and Last Name, you will receive an email with a link to the form. If you are not in a role that is allowed to submit that form, when you click on the link, you will receive a message that "You are not in a role that is able to submit this form." When you submit these forms, you will receive a copy of them from Supreme via email. You can then share these copies with other council officers, District Deputies or State Officers and Directors by email.

Anyone can use the PDF version of these forms. To start, click on the blue PDF. When the form opens, **you must first save the file to your computer with a new file name (example: Form 365 Council XXXXX)**. If you do not save the form with a new file name, any information you enter or save will not stay in the filled-out form. You can then fill in any field that is shaded in light blue. Once you have completed the form, you can then attach the form to an e-mail and send it to the people listed on the bottom of the form. You can also print the form and mail it, but Supreme, the State Deputy and State Executive Secretary would rather you e-mail it. You can print it more than once. Be sure to save a copy for yourself.

Remember to email a copy of the completed form to the State Executive Secretary for record keeping. This is the only way that the State Council knows that your council has submitted the proper paperwork, and in the event of a submission discrepancy, we can provide the copy the State Executive Secretary received to the Supreme Office.

**Columbian Award Application**

Due by June 30th

Council Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Jurisdiction: \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_\_-20\_\_\_\_

**FAITH PROGRAMS:** RSVP, Into the Breach, Spiritual Reflection, Holy Hour, Pilgrim Icon Program, Building the Domestic Church, Kiosk, Rotary Program, Sacramental Gifts

1. Program Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Featured Program? ☐ YES ☐ NO  
(Selecting yes indicates you have fulfilled all featured program minimum requirements.)

Program Description: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Program Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Featured Program? ☐ YES ☐ NO  
(Selecting yes indicates you have fulfilled all featured program minimum requirements.)

Program Description: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Program Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Featured Program? ☐ YES ☐ NO  
(Selecting yes indicates you have fulfilled all featured program minimum requirements.)

Program Description: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Program Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Featured Program? ☐ YES ☐ NO  
(Selecting yes indicates you have fulfilled all featured program minimum requirements.)

Program Description: \_\_\_\_\_

**FAMILY PROGRAMS:** Food for Families, Family of the Month/Year, Family Fully Alive, Family Prayer Night, Keep Christ in Christmas, Family Week, Consecration to the Holy Family, Good Friday Family Promotion

1. Program Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Featured Program? ☐ YES ☐ NO  
(Selecting yes indicates you have fulfilled all featured program minimum requirements.)

Program Description: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Program Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Featured Program? ☐ YES ☐ NO  
(Selecting yes indicates you have fulfilled all featured program minimum requirements.)


Program Description: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Program Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Featured Program? ☐ YES ☐ NO  
(Selecting yes indicates you have fulfilled all featured program minimum requirements.)

Program Description: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Program Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Featured Program? ☐ YES ☐ NO  
(Selecting yes indicates you have fulfilled all featured program minimum requirements.)

Program Description: \_\_\_\_\_



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## STATE REPORT DUE DATES

State Per Capita Assessment .....	September 1
ICC Council Activity Planner .....	September 1**
State Per Capita Assessment .....	March 1
ICC Award Applications .....	March 1**
Chaplain of the Year Nominations.....	March 1**
Family of the Year Nominations .....	March 1**
Knight of the Year Nominations.....	March 1**
Rookie Knight of the Year Nominations.....	March 1**
ICC Columbian Award Qualifier .....	March 1**
Nebraska State Directory Updates .....	June 20

Submit changes and updates as needed to the State Executive Secretary

\*\* These Reports **must** be submitted online at <https://nebraskakofc.org/programs/icc-forms.html>

## WHERE TO FIND STATE REPORTS

Start at the State website: [nebraskakofc.org](http://nebraskakofc.org)



Click on Programs on the menu below the State Pin.

Scroll down on the page until you find the section about the Inter-Council Competition:

*Overview*

*ICC*

*Faith*

*Family*

*Community*

*Life*

*Eucharistic Revival*

*State Lottery to Support Vocations*

### State Programs

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Download the State Program Book Here

2022-2023 State Program Book



**Inter-Council Competition (ICC)**  
The Nebraska State Council ICC Awards Program is designed to encourage service to the Order, the Church, Communities, Families, Youth and Prolife organizations through the presentation of awards. Recognition itself is secondary to the service or services provided and intended to encourage more service.



**Intellectual Disabilities**



**Project Lori**

Click on the image of the ICC Championship Belt:

*Overview*

If you have any questions regarding the Keystone Projects, please reach out to the State Program Director for more information.

*ICC*

*Faith*

Download or Complete ICC Forms Here



*Family*

*Community*

2023-2024 ICC Tracker - Updated 08APR24

*Life*

Please Note for the ICC Tracker:

*Eucharistic Revival*

- Membership is up to date as of April 1, 2024. Any new members since that time have not been added to this report.

*State Lottery to Support  
Vocations*

- Membership Quota/Status now takes into account completion of Key Stone Projects.
  - The reduction in ICC Membership Quota is automatically applied for the completion and submission of Key Stone Projects.

*Evangelization and Faith  
Formation*

- Supreme Per Capita, due March 1, was updated based on the report provided by the Supreme Office at the beginning of March.
  - In order to have qualified for State and Supreme Awards for Faith, Family, Community, and Life, councils needed to have paid all of their Per Capita assessments for the State and Supreme Councils.

Navigate down the page and click on the blue

Download or Complete ICC Forms Here

button.

Navigate to the submission form you need on the page. Click on the button and allow the form to open in a new web page on your device. Anyone with internet access can access these forms and submit them.

**DO NOT use forms located on the STATE FORMS section of the Supreme Website. Those forms are for the State to use when submitting to the Supreme Office. All forms needing to be submitted for the ICC Program or for Chaplain, Family, Knight, or Rookie Knight of the Year are located on the State website.**

## **HOW TO FILL OUT STATE REPORTS**

Once you have clicked on the button for the ICC Form you need to fill out, a new web page will open with the ICC Award Application. Instructions and requirements for filling out each application are located at the top of the page. Please be as thorough as possible when filling out the application and provide as much detail as possible. These applications are used to determine winners of awards at the annual State Convention. These forms will allow you to upload documents and images (.pdf, .docx, .doc, .jpeg, etc.) as part of your submission.

You cannot save the information on this form, rather, you will receive a copy of it once you have submitted it. You must fill out the entire form in one sitting. Once you have completed the submission form, make sure that you click the blue "Send" button. Once you have clicked the Send button, it will automatically be emailed to the State Program Director and the appropriate state director / chairman. A copy of the submission will be emailed to the person submitting the form or to the email address provided on the form once the Send button has been clicked.

**ICC Award Applications do not take the place of Form #10784.**

More information and pictures of the ICC Award Applications can be found in the ICC Reports and Forms section of this State Program Book.

## **STATE PROGRAM DIRECTOR – KEVIN OSTDIEK**

Honored and humbled just barely begin to describe my feelings about being asked to serve as the State Program Director by State Deputy Michael Schaeffer.



I was raised in Sacred Heart Parish in Lawrence, NE and joined Council 1906 there as a senior in high school, just prior to my 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, following my Dad and Grandfather. My three brothers are also Brother Knights. I attended the University of Nebraska in Lincoln and have continued to live there since graduating, transferring my membership to Council 11001. As I became more involved in the parish and council, I served in all council offices from Recorder to Grand Knight and Trustee. I then served as District Deputy from 2008 – 2012. Since joining the Fourth Degree, I served in most offices of Bishop Kucera Assembly 595 and then became the Charter Faithful Admiral in St. John Paul the Great Assembly 3640, where I continue to serve as Trustee.

Since 2013 I have served in various positions for the state council. I served as the Athletics Chairman, on the Membership Team and on the IT / Production for four state deputies. I served as the State Membership Director under Past State Deputies Tony Hergott (2015 – 2017) and Mark Borytsky (2019-2021). Most recently, I served as the Assistant Program Directory for the 2024-25 fraternal year.

I am a member of Blessed Sacrament Parish, I serve as an Acolyte, Lector and Usher and have chaired our parish's fall fund-raiser. I have been an active member of my Light of the World group for almost 25 years and helped run several retreats within our parish. For 11 years, I have worked as the Special Projects Coordinator for the Diocese of Lincoln.

In 2023, through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, many prayers from family and friends and (I am certain of) the intercession of St. Joseph, I met and married my amazing wife, Jenny. She currently works as the Benefits Coordinator for the Diocese of Lincoln.

I look forward to working with every council over the next fraternal year to see what level of greatness we can achieve together. As a District Deputy and as the State Membership Director, I found that every single council in this state does great things – for their members, for their parish(es) and for their communities. I am offering my assistance to any council that needs or wants a little help.

State Deputy Schaeffer chose the motto “Evangelizing Our Family and Our Community”, and that will drive my focus over this fraternal year. I want to help every council do their best to bring Christ's love to their portion of God's creation and to put their faith into the great projects that they do. Whether I can help a council find the resources that it is looking for to complete a project or help them to fill out the dreaded “paperwork” that is required to keep our councils running smoothly and sharing the amazing projects that they do, I am here to give you a hand.

Our mission is not “paperwork”; rather, it is through our actions and our witness that we will truly spread the vision of Blessed Michael J. McGivney and the Knights of Columbus. Which is why I offer my assistance to any council that could use some assistance or advice with this necessary but unglamorous task.



## SAFE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM TRAINING AND BACKGROUND CHECK REQUIREMENTS

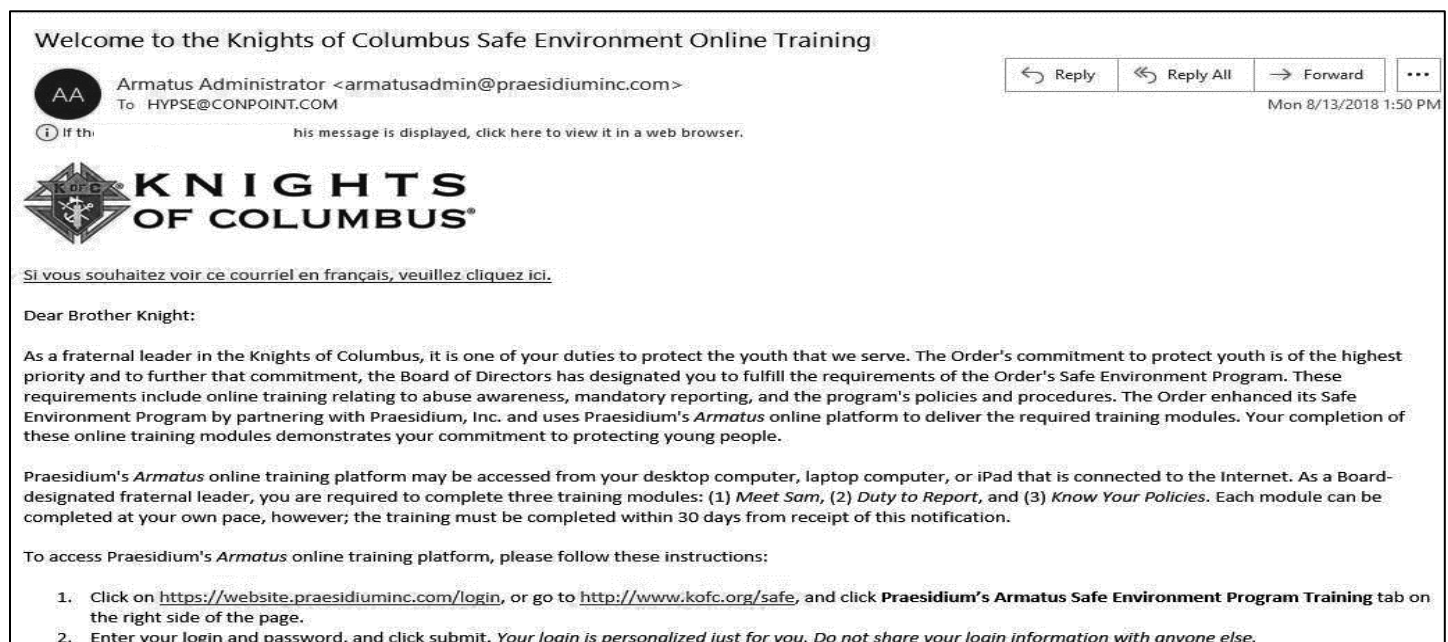
When you fill out your Form 185 (Report of Officers) and Form 365 (Service Program Personnel Report) be sure to include the Grand Knight, Program Director, Family Director, and Community Director positions. Each position must be filled by a different person and must include a personal email address for each position.

The Grand Knight, Program Director, Family Director, and Community Director positions are required to take the Safe Environment Training if they have not done so within the last three years. Submitting Form 365 will trigger an e-mail to be sent to each one of those positions that will contain a login and password for a website to take the Safe Environment Training. The login and password are only active for thirty days, so Knights need to get it done promptly. If the login and password expire, you will need to submit a new Form 365.

The e-mail you receive will come from Armatus Administrator and will look similar to the one below. Praesidium's Armatus is the company Supreme contracted with to administer the Safe Environment Program. The e-mail will contain the link to the training website. There will also be a personalized login, ID and password. Again, this login ID is only valid for thirty days, so please watch for the e-mail and get the training completed.



Below is a sample of the email you will receive.



## STATE AWARDS

The top award winners at the State level that advance to Supreme for further award consideration are Community, Faith, Family, and Life. The minimum criteria for Supreme and State Awards in Community, Faith, Family, and Life are as follows:

- **State and Supreme Per Capita Tax paid by March 1**
  - **This will be determined by the March 1 Report from Supreme**
  - **Both the first and second half of Per Capita MUST be paid**

State level awards will be handed out based on divisions, determined by council Membership numbers from July 1, 2024.

5 Divisions:

- Division 1 .....Councils with 01 - 55 Members
- Division 2 .....Councils with 56 - 80 Members
- Division 3 .....Councils with 81 - 135 Members
- Division 4 .....Councils with 136 - 220 Members
- Division 5 .....Councils with 221 or more Members

A breakdown of councils in each division can be found at the bottom of this page and on the following pages.

The winner of Family of the Year and Chaplain of the Year at the State Convention will be submitted to the Supreme Office for consideration as International Family of the Year and for the Blessed Michael McGivney Medal, respectively.

Please note that councils **do not** need to submit the State Blessed Michael McGivney Award (from the Supreme Website). Councils should submit their Chaplain using the Chaplain of the Year nomination form found on the State Website. The State Program Director will handle submitting all nominations to the Supreme Office for International Award consideration.

The State Officers, Directors, and Chairmen reserve the right to move applications from one category to another based on submissions.



Division 1						
Council	District	Location		Council	District	Location
1309	015	Emerson		10815	005	Omaha
2351	024	Wood River / Shelton		11652	036	Abie & Bruno
2373	029	Orleans		11674	007	Dawson And Shubert
4434	023	Fairbury		11810	041	Pender
5218	016	Verdigre		11822	038	Friend/Exeter
5383	036	Osceola		12132	014	Stanton
6268	001	Omaha		12200	031	Scottsbluff
6385	027	Ainsworth-Bassett		12517	017	Battle Creek
7081	030	Imperial		12557	040	Ashland / Greenwood
7734	029	Cambridge		13496	041	Lyons
7778	030	Grant		14070	011	Sutton/Harvard
7779	041	Wisner		14423	036	Shelby
7825	020	St Edward		14508	038	Beaver Crossing/Utica
7966	038	Wilber		15068	041	Tekamah
9898	014	Leigh		15101	034	Omaha
10163	030	Benkelman Stratton		15869	008	Odell
10386	011	Central City				

Division 2						
Council	District	Location		Council	District	Location
1128	042	Chadron		10000	007	Steinauer
1312	021	Greeley		10155	039	Roseland
2040	024	Lexington		10335	039	Minden
2693	029	Indianola		10412	013	Blair
3720	026	Spencer		10506	028	North Platte
5287	001	Omaha		10592	016	Bloomfield
5315	028	Cozad		11054	017	Pierce
6750	008	Tecumseh		11600	003	Omaha
7021	007	Auburn		11824	039	Doniphan
7614	040	Syracuse		12530	028	North Platte
7684	023	Geneva		12687	024	Elm Creek
7704	038	Crete		13015	009	Lincoln
7714	023	Superior		14320	038	Cortland
7887	014	Clarkson		14470		Omaha
7954	020	Fullerton		15407	010	Lincoln
8889	037	Brainard		15647	037	Davey
9704	009	Lincoln		15944	036	Bellwood
9939	015	Ponca		16878	009	Lincoln

Division 3											
Council	District	Location		Council	District	Location		Council	District	Location	
652	032	Omaha		5143	015	Randolph		10607	020	Genoa	
975	042	Alliance		5881	026	Stuart		10894	004	Springfield	
1159	022	Grand Island		7034	006	Valley		11363	022	Grand Island	
1238	017	Creighton		7550	018	Neligh		11364	035	Omaha	
1336	007	Falls City		8010	011	Aurora		11737	038	Denton	
1708	038	York		8590	029	Holdrege		11800	032	Omaha	
1723	008	Beatrice		8986	018	Madison		13080	005	Omaha	
1904	023	Hebron		9918	003	Omaha		13956	001	Omaha	
4633	027	Valentine		10184	032	Omaha		14685	016	Crofton	
4707	026	Atkinson		10285	031	Gering		14914	034	Elkhorn	
5045	002	Omaha		10305	013	FtCalhoun		16680	005	Omaha	

Division 4										
Council	District	Location		Council	District	Location		Council	District	Location
1126	030	McCook		3736	013	North Bend		10387	022	Grand Island
1211	028	North Platte		3844	015	So Sioux City		10895	003	Omaha
1794	018	Humphrey		4979	028	Ogallala		10923	024	Kearney
1861	031	Sidney		5439	014	Howells		10965	034	Omaha
1906	023	Lawrence		5455	025	Loup City		11001	009	Lincoln
1918	025	St Paul		7699	020	Lindsay		11312	010	Lincoln
1966	040	Plattsmouth		8469	038	Seward		11823	039	Hastings
2292	025	Ord		8579	015	Wayne		13576	010	Lincoln
2388	025	Broken Bow		8625	037	Valparaiso		13584	021	Spalding
2681	031	Scottsbluff		9562	022	Grand Island		14077	006	Omaha
3152	040	Nebr. City		9771	003	Omaha				

Division 5

Council	District	Location		Council	District	Location		Council	District	Location
701	026	O Neil		2272	041	West Point		10047	004	Gretna
833	009	Lincoln		2411	018	Elgin		10108	002	Omaha
938	019	Columbus		2716	019	Schuyler		10160	004	Omaha
1123	039	Hastings		3019	005	South Omaha		10510	033	Lincoln
1233	016	Hartington		4923	033	Lincoln		10795	034	Omaha
1497	013	Fremont		6192	035	Bellevue		10909	002	Omaha
1717	036	David City		6429	035	Papillion		10913	033	Lincoln
1728	024	Kearney		7740	004	Omaha		11280	010	Lincoln
1739	021	Albion		9264	019	Columbus		11700	002	Omaha
1793	017	Norfolk		9518	006	Ralston		11879	035	Bellevue
1833	037	Wahoo		9563	033	Lincoln		12086	019	Columbus

**Below is a list of Awards presented at the State Convention as selected by applications received.**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Award Name</b>	<b>By Division</b>	<b>Number Awarded</b>	<b>Total Awards</b>
Community	Supreme & State Major Community Activity	No	Supreme & State	2
Community	Leonard Feehan Memorial Community Service Award	No	1 <sup>st</sup>	1
Youth	Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest	Grade K Grade 1-2 Grade 3-4 Grade 5-6 Grade 7-8	1 <sup>st</sup>	5
Faith	Supreme & State Major Faith Activity	No	Supreme & State	2
Faith	Support of Catholic Education	No	Up to 2 Equal	2
Faith	Chaplain of the Year	No	1 <sup>st</sup> & Runner-Up	2
Vocations	Support of Vocations	No	Up to 2 Equal	2
Family	Supreme & State Major Family Activity	No	Supreme & State	2
Family	Family of the Year	No	1 <sup>st</sup> & Runner-Up	2
Life	Supreme & State Major Life Activity	No	Supreme & State	2
Life	One Rose - One Life	Yes	1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup>	10
Life	Pro Life Art Contest	No	1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> , & 3 <sup>rd</sup>	3
Intellectual Disabilities	Intellectual Disabilities Award Most Funds Raised	Yes	1 <sup>st</sup>	5
Intellectual Disabilities	Intellectual Disabilities Award Highest Percentage Gain	Yes	1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup>	15
Publicity	Top Overall Council	Yes	1 <sup>st</sup>	5
Publicity	Award of Excellence	No	Up to 5 Equal	5
Publicity	Best Council Event	No	Up to 3 Equal	3
Membership	Membership Awards Highest Percentage Gain	Yes	1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup>	10
Insurance	Agent of the Year	No	1 <sup>st</sup>	2
State Deputy	District Deputy of the Year	No	1 <sup>st</sup> & Runner-Up	2
State	On-Going Projects (5+ Years)	No	Up to 2 Equal	2
State	Special Projects	No	Up to 2 Equal	2
State	ICC Gold Level	No	Unlimited	
State	ICC Silver Level	No	Unlimited	
State	ICC Bronze Level	No	Unlimited	
State	ICC Champion of the Year	No	1 <sup>st</sup>	1
State	Rookie Knight of the Year (Less than 5 Years)	No	1 <sup>st</sup> & Runner-Up	2
State	Knight of the Year (More than 5 Years)	No	1 <sup>st</sup> & Runner-Up	2

## **Criteria for State Selected Awards**

### **Rookie Knight of the Year**

- Recognizing a “Model Knight” who has been a member of the Knights of Columbus for **less than five years** as of March 1, 2026.
- Explain why this Knight was chosen as the “model” Knight for your Council.
- Explain the Knight’s involvement in your Council, Church, and Community.
- Provide examples of achievements and activities outside of the Knights of Columbus.
- **Emphasis should be placed on the achievements and activities the Knight has participated in over the last Fraternal Year.**
- A photo should accompany your submission.

### **Knight of the year**

- Recognizing a “Model Knight” who has been a member of the Knights of Columbus for **more than five years** as of March 1, 2026.
- Explain why this Knight was chosen as the “model” Knight for your Council.
- Explain the Knight’s involvement in your Council, Church, and Community.
- Provide examples of achievements and activities outside of the Knights of Columbus
- **Emphasis should be placed on the achievements and activities the Knight has participated in over the last Fraternal Year.**
- A photo should accompany your submission.

### **On-Going Projects**

- Projects that have been continually run by your council for **five or more years** as of March 1, 2025.
- Make sure to consider the following criteria when submitting an On-Going Project Application:
  - Number of Volunteers (Both Members and Non-Members)
  - Planning Hours
  - Program Costs
  - Number of Participants
  - Donations Received
  - Engagement Level
  - Donations Given
- Consider adding a few photos of your event with your application.

### **Special Projects**

- Projects that may not fit into any specific category or may fit into multiple categories.
- No specific time requirement on how many years the project has been run.
- Make sure to consider the following criteria when submitting a Special Project Application:
  - Number of Volunteers (Both Members and Non-Members)
  - Planning Hours
  - Program Costs
  - Number of Participants
  - Donations Received
  - Engagement Level
  - Donations Given
- Consider adding a few photos of your event with your application.

## **ICC AWARDS PROGRAM**

### **Purpose:**

To acknowledge the Councils that best exemplify the Mission of the Knights of Columbus through their service to the four pillars of Faith, Family, Community, and Life.

### **Eligibility:**

ICC Bronze - Complete the 11 ICC Program Requirements found on the next page.

ICC Silver - Complete the 16 ICC Program Requirements found on the next page.

ICC Gold - Complete the 18 ICC Program Requirements found on the next page.

### **Membership Quota:**

Councils that complete two (2) of the Keystone Projects laid out in the State Program Book and on the State website will receive a 10% reduction in their Membership Quota for the 2025-2026 ICC Awards Program (i.e. 75% would become 65%, 50% would become 40%, 25% would become 15%). Councils that complete all eight (8) of the Keystone Projects can receive a 40% reduction in their Membership Quota of the 2025-2026 ICC Awards Program. All councils will still be required to have +1 Membership during the fraternal year (July 1 to April 1) to qualify for Membership in the 2025-2026 ICC Awards Program.

### **ICC Champion of the Year:**

The ICC Champion of the Year is chosen from among the ICC Gold Councils by their peers during the Business Meeting at the State Convention. A traveling trophy is presented to the winning Council for the year, and a plaque commemorating their achievement is presented when they return the traveling trophy at the next State Convention.

### **ICC Champion of the Year Eligibility:**

All Gold Level qualifiers will be entered on the ballot according to the requirements cited on the next page.

## **Congratulations to our ICC Champion for 2024-2025:**

**Council 11001 – Blessed Sacrament – Lincoln**

**Matthew Richardson, PSD – Grand Knight**



## 2025-2026 ICC AWARDS PROGRAM CHECKLIST

There are 11 items required for ICC Bronze

There are 16 items required for ICC Silver

There are 18 items required for ICC Gold

	Gold Requirements Receive by Date		Silver Requirements Receive by Date		Bronze Requirements Receive by Date	
<b>Form 185 Report of Officers</b>	JUN 30		MAR 1		MAR 1	
<b>Form 365 Service Personnel</b>	JUN 30		MAR 1		MAR 1	
<b>Form 1295-2 Semi-Annual Audit</b>	AUG 15		MAR 1		MAR 1	
ICC Council Activity Planner	SEP 1					
State Per Capita	SEP 1		SEP 1		MAR 1	
Supreme Per Capita	SEP 1		SEP 1		MAR 1	
<b>Form 1728 Fraternal Activity Annual Survey</b>	JAN 31		MAR 1		MAR 1	
<b>Form 1295-1 Semi-Annual Audit</b>	FEB 15		MAR 1		MAR 1	
State Per Capita	MAR 1		MAR 1		MAR 1	
Supreme Per Capita	MAR 1		MAR 1		MAR 1	
ICC Columbian Qualifier Application	MAR 1		MAR 1		MAR 1	
ICC Knight of the Year <u>Or</u> ICC Rookie Knight of the Year	MAR 1		Turn in one of these applications by <b>MAR 1</b>			
ICC Family of the Year	MAR 1					
ICC Faith Award Application	MAR 1		MAR 1			
ICC Family Award Application	MAR 1		MAR 1			
ICC Community Award Application	MAR 1		MAR 1			
ICC Life Award Application	MAR 1		MAR 1			
Membership (April 1)	75% of Quota*		50% of Quota*		25% of Quota*	

\*Completion of two (2) of the Keystone Projects laid out in the State Program Book will result in a reduction of 10% of your ICC Membership Quota for the Year. Completion of all eight (8) Keystone Projects can reduce your ICC Membership Quota by a total of 40%. A minimum of +1 new member is required for Membership for ICC Awards.

**This will not change your Membership Quota for Star Council.**

2025-2026 Star Councils may use a **“Wild Card”** to take the place of one of the ICC Program Requirements.

**The “Wild Card” cannot be used on**

Membership, State Per Capita, Supreme Per Capita, or any of the Supreme Reports (forms listed in **bold** text).



## FORMS AND REPORTS

Form 365 (Service Program Personnel Report), Forms 1295-1 and 1295-2 (Semi-Annual Audits), Form 1728 (Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity) and Form 185 (Report of Officers Chosen for the Term), are available on the Supreme website at [www.kofc.org](http://www.kofc.org).

For the Columbian Faith, Family, Community, and Life Activity Awards, we suggest you use the form #10784 that is on the Supreme website. Start at [www.kofc.org](http://www.kofc.org), then click the red “For Members” button, then on the blue “Forms” button, scroll down to “Faith in Action Program Forms” and click on it. Forms will be on the left. Once you select Form #10784, you will be asked to provide your Membership Number and Last Name. An email will be sent to the email address Supreme has on file with a link to Form #10784. This link will be valid for 48 hours and can be used to submit the Form #10784 multiple times for multiple activities. There is no need to save this form after filling it out, you can simply click the blue “SUBMIT” button, and a copy will be sent to the person submitting the form, the State Program Director, and the Supreme Office.

A sample of the form is below:

### Fraternal Programs Report Form

Reporting Officer Name

Membership Number

Council Number

State / Province

Faith	Family	Community	Life
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Into the Breach	<input type="radio"/> Family of the Month	<input type="radio"/> Disaster Preparedness	<input type="radio"/> Christian Refugee Relief
<input type="radio"/> Pilgrim Icon Program	<input type="radio"/> Keep Christ in Christmas	<input type="radio"/> Free Throw Championship	<input type="radio"/> Silver Rose
<input type="radio"/> Build the Domestic Church Kiosk	<input type="radio"/> Family Fully Alive	<input type="radio"/> Soccer Challenge	<input type="radio"/> Pregnancy Center Support
<input type="radio"/> Rosary	<input type="radio"/> Family Week	<input type="radio"/> Helping Hands	<input type="radio"/> Novena for Life
<input type="radio"/> Spiritual Reflection	<input type="radio"/> Consecration to the Holy Family	<input type="radio"/> Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest	<input type="radio"/> Mass for People with Special Needs
<input type="radio"/> Holy Hour	<input type="radio"/> Family Prayer Night	<input type="radio"/> Coats for Kids	<input type="radio"/> March for Life
<input type="radio"/> Sacramental Gifts	<input type="radio"/> Good Friday Family Promotion	<input type="radio"/> Global Wheelchair Mission	<input type="radio"/> Special Olympics
<input type="radio"/> RSVP	<input type="radio"/> Food for Families	<input type="radio"/> Habitat for Humanity	<input type="radio"/> Ultrasound
<input type="radio"/> Other	<input type="radio"/> Other	<input type="radio"/> Other	<input type="radio"/> Other
If Other, Program Name : <input style="width: 80%;" type="text"/>			

Date(s) of Program    MM    DD    YYYY    to    MM    DD    YYYY

Volunteers:  +  =   x  =

Members    Non Members    Total Volunteers    Total Volunteers    Hours (Per Person)    Total Volunteer Hours

Participants (Non-Volunteer):     Was your Pastor present?    ☐ Yes    ☐ No

## ICC FORMS AND REPORTS



ICC Forms and Reports can be found on the Nebraska Knights of Columbus State Website at [nebraskakofc.org](http://nebraskakofc.org). Click on Programs at the top of the page and ICC in the menu on the left of the screen. In the middle of the page, you will find a button that says, "Download or Complete ICC Forms Here".

ICC

Faith

Family

Community

Life

Eucharistic Revival

projects.

You will no longer need to email your submission to multiple individuals to ensure it has been submitted. You may, however, still want to forward a copy of your email confirmation to your District Deputy or Regional Growth Director for record keeping.

If you have any questions regarding the ICC Submission Forms, please feel free to reach out to us.

Download or Complete ICC Forms Here

Almost all the Submission Forms are built directly into the website. This means you can fill out the report on the website and submit it directly to the State Program Director and the corresponding Activity Director. The only report that will still need to be downloaded and filled out is the Publicity Award Report.

Online Reports can be filled out, making sure that the required information is completed before submission, and then submitted with a click of a button.

Reports do need to be completed in one sitting. There is not a "Save" option on these forms. If you close your web browser or shut down your computer before hitting the "Send" button, your information will be lost, and you will need to start again.

After each successful submission you will be taken to a new page thanking you for completing the ICC Submission Form. The Grand Knight or Council Program Director (whichever email was entered on the ICC Submission Form) will also receive an email confirmation that the form has been submitted. The State Program Director and the other directors will also receive notice that your form has been submitted.

These new forms also allow for the upload of files to support your submission. You can upload up to five (5) different files for each submission. Files can include pictures (.jpg, .jpeg, .png, etc.), Word Documents, PDF Files, and videos. Please take advantage of these upload options to provide the Directors and State Family with the best possible vision of your projects.

You do not need to email your submission to multiple individuals to ensure it has been submitted. You may, however, still want to forward a copy of your email confirmation to your District Deputy or Regional Growth Director for record keeping.

If you have any questions regarding the ICC Submission Forms, please feel free to reach out to us.

Form #10784 does not take the place of the ICC Submission Forms. However, you can upload your Form #10784 as one of the files in your ICC Submission, so that you do not have to fill out all of the information on both forms.

Below is an example section from the ICC Faith Program Award Application found on the State Website.

## ICC Faith Program Award Application

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### **Instructions**

Complete this form for each program that you would like to have considered for a Faith Supreme or State Service Award. Once you click the Send button, a copy of this form will be sent to your Council's Grand Knight or Program Director, the State Faith Director, and the State Program Director.

Some programs may be placed in different categories for award consideration based on Director's discretion.

ICC Award Applications are due by **End of Day, March 1.**

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Please provide some general information about your Council and the contact information for your Grand Knight or Program Director in the section below.

All fields in this section are **required** for submission.

Please type in your Council Number.

Please type in your Council Name.

Select your District Number from the drop down list.



Please type in your Council's Home City.

Grand Knight/Program Director Name \* REQUIRED

Please type in your Grand Knight's or Program Director's Email Address.

## FAITH IN ACTION CATEGORIES

FAITH	COMMUNITY
<b>Refund Support Vocations Program (RSVP)</b> <b>Into the Breach</b> <b>Spiritual Reflection</b> <b>Holy Hour</b> Pilgrim Icon Program Building the Domestic Church Kiosk Rosary Program Sacramental Gifts	<b>Coats for Kids</b> <b>Global Wheelchair Mission</b> <b>Habitat for Humanity</b> Disaster Preparedness Free Throw Championship Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest Soccer/Hockey Challenge Helping Hands
FAMILY	LIFE
<b>Food for Families</b> <b>Family of the Month/Year</b> <b>Family Fully Alive</b> <b>Family Prayer Night</b> Keep Christ in Christmas Family Week Consecration to the Holy Family Good Friday Family Promotion	<b>March for Life</b> <b>Special Olympics</b> <b>Ultrasound Initiative</b> <b>Pregnancy Center Support</b> <b>Aid and Support After Pregnancy (ASAP)</b> Christian Refugee Relief Silver Rose Mass for People with Special Needs Novena for Life

**Bold** denotes a Supreme Featured Program.

The programs noted above may be changed by Supreme at the start of the new Fraternal Year. If they are, we will update this information on the website. Please check there to confirm the programs.

### Featured Programs:

The Supreme Council has designated select programs as featured programs in each of the four program categories. When your council conducts a featured program and satisfies the associated requirements it will receive two credits towards that program category on the Columbian Award Application (#SP-7). At the end of the calendar year, report all completed programs on the Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity (#1728). For additional Featured Program information, review the individual program guide sheets found at [kojc.org/fiaresources](http://kojc.org/fiaresources). All program forms can be found at [kojc.org/fiaforms](http://kojc.org/fiaforms).

## FAITH IN ACTION RESOURCES

Here is a list of other report forms for your council to use. These are a great way for your council to share the good works of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity that you do with Supreme and possibly earn some recognition. These are all located on the Supreme Website at [www.kofc.org](http://www.kofc.org). Search under “**What We Do**”, click on “**Programs**”, the “**Resources**”. Then click on the “**Faith in Actions Forms**”.

### FAITH IN ACTION - RESOURCES



FAITH IN ACTION  
OVERVIEW



FAITH



FAMILY



COMMUNITY



LIFE



FAITH IN ACTION FORMS

## **OVERVIEW & HIGHLIGHTS**



### **FAITH IN ACTION RESOURCES**

- #10907 .....Faith in Action Guidebook
- #10746 .....Faith in Action Minimum Requirements
- #10581 .....Faith in Action FAQs
- #11172 .....Faith in Action Program Forms Reference Guide
- #11139 .....Faith in Action Remote Programming Supplement
- #1728 .....Fraternal Survey
- #SP-7 .....Columbian Award Application
- #10784 .....Fraternal Programs Report Form

Fraternal Leadership Training Webcasts

### **Prayer for the Canonization of Blessed Michael McGivney**

God, our Father, protector of the poor and defender of the widow and orphan, you called your priest, Blessed Michael 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 Blessed Michael 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.

## **FAITH PROGRAMS**

***Our goal is to strengthen our men and their families in the faith. Formation in our faith goes beyond mere facts or religious practice to an authentic connection with a loving God and his son Jesus Christ.***

### **Refund Support Vocations Program (RSVP) -- Featured Program**

Knights of Columbus stand in solidarity with our priests and religious. Through this program, council and parish families will raise funds to support seminarians in their area. For every \$500 given to an individual, the Supreme Council will refund the council or assembly \$100. The maximum refund a council or assembly can receive is \$400 per individual supported. Though financial support is vitally important, it is not the only aspect of the RSVP. Councils are also called to provide their “adopted” seminarian or religious aspirant with moral support and prayers for their success.

### **Holy Hour -- Featured Program**

Holy Hours feature the exposition and benediction of the Blessed Sacrament and can also include a reflection, communal rosary, prayers for intercession by Blessed Michael McGivney or St. Joseph, and other devotions as decided by the council and pastor. Eucharistic Processions provide an opportunity to walk with the Blessed Sacrament through your community, bringing Jesus to everyone along the route.

### **Into The Breach -- Featured Program**

In his Apostolic Exhortation “Into the Breach”, Bishop Thomas J. Olmsted outlines the challenges faced by men of faith in the world today. Into the Breach is a call to battle for Catholic men which urges them to wholeheartedly embrace masculine virtues in a world at crisis. By reading and discussing Bishop Olmsted’s inspirational words and the accompanying study guide with like-minded men of faith, councils will prayerfully examine the enormous breach in the battle line that lies before them. In doing so, they will begin to devise a personal plan of spiritual battle.

### **Spiritual Reflection -- Featured Program**

Many Catholic young people can attest that religious retreats are radically rejuvenating spiritual events that often leave a lasting impact on participants’ relationship to their faith. Yet, so often, retreats seem only to be open to students and youth. In conjunction with pastors, councils and jurisdictions can hold low-cost retreats of their own. These events might be open only to council members or men of the parish – or may be open to entire families. If councils are unable to organize these events themselves, they could go as a group and attend a retreat in their area to satisfy the requirements. Additionally, councils are strongly encouraged to consider visiting The Saint John Paul II National Shrine in Washington, D.C. as part of this program.

### **Pilgrim Icon**

Every few years, the Knights of Columbus selects an icon of a saint whose patronage is particularly inspiring to Knights and their communities. Each jurisdiction receives one or several of these icons which travel from council to council and serve as the centerpieces for prayer services in parishes throughout the Order. Since the first traveling pilgrim icon of Our Lady of Guadalupe in 1979, more than 174,800 council and parish prayer services with some 22 million participants have been held.

### **Building the Domestic Church Kiosk**

By organizing activities in their parishes, councils can educate and evangelize using the rich resources found in the Catholic Information Service (CIS) Building the Domestic Church series of booklets. Since 1948, CIS has been the major evangelical arm of the Knights of Columbus. Through multiple booklet series and various media formats, CIS makes our Catholic faith accessible and continually provides tools for catechesis and faith formation. For \$150, a council receives a Building the Domestic Church Kiosk (#BDC-K) and the first set of 225 booklets of the most popular CIS resources, aimed at helping Catholics to live out the Church’s vision for our families.

### **Eucharistic Procession**

A Eucharistic Procession, just like Eucharistic Adoration, is an extension of the worship of Jesus Christ, truly present in the Blessed Sacrament. The supreme act of adoration and the source and summit of the Christian life is the celebration of the Mass, and that celebration is prolonged and intensified through Eucharistic worship outside of the Mass. In Eucharistic Processions, the missionary aspect of the Eucharist is emphasized as we go forth into the world. Not only gazing upon our Eucharistic Lord, but walking with him, we experience what the disciples did 2000 years ago as they walked with Jesus, proclaiming the Good News to the world. A parish community that undertakes a Eucharistic Procession has made the decision to publicly proclaim its belief in Jesus' True Presence in the Eucharist. By this public witness of faith, the parish invites people in the community to encounter the Risen Lord present in the Eucharistic Host. For those who participate in the procession, it is an opportunity not only to proclaim their faith but also to grow in their faith. The procession is, finally, an invitation to Jesus himself to be a part of our daily lives, to be immersed in the world in which we live.

### **Sacramental Gifts**

The sacraments stand as the most significant events in the life of the domestic church. The Knights of Columbus will be there to support and embrace our parish families at these essential moments of encounter with Christ. As children and adult members become more integrated into the life of the church and their parish, they should know that members of the Knights of Columbus will always be present in a tangible and meaningful way.

### **Rosary**

This program encourages devotion to Mary, the patroness of our Order, and emphasizes the importance of prayer in community and as a family. The Rosary Program encourages councils to schedule regular rosary prayer services on any day of the week, at any time of the year, with the guidance of their pastor. Councils should personally invite each family of the parish and offer attending families a copy of the Knights of Columbus Catholic Information Service's A Scriptural Rosary for the Family (#319). Encourage families to read this booklet and learn how their faith can be strengthened through a devotion to Our Lady, while praying the rosary at home together regularly.

***For information, resources, guidebooks and much more  
for each of these programs, visit:  
[nebraskakofc.org/programs/faith.html](http://nebraskakofc.org/programs/faith.html)***



**FAITH**

## **FAMILY PROGRAMS**

***Father McGivney sought to strengthen the bonds of families in his parish and the Knights of Columbus. These programs, created for families by families, help us to live this call.***

### **Food for Families -- Featured Program**

Knights of Columbus are committed to helping end hunger through the Food for Families Program which has donated millions of dollars and millions of pounds of food toward this cause. Council and parish families will raise funds to support their local food pantries, food banks and soup kitchens. For every \$500 or 1,000 pounds of food donated, the Supreme Council will refund \$100 back to the council – up to a maximum of \$500 per council per fraternal year. Though in-kind donation of food is valuable, leaders of hunger-relief organizations often comment that financial contributions can be stretched even further and allow nonprofits to procure the exact items needed by the organization and its clients.

### **Family of the Month/Year -- Featured Program**

Each month, the council Family of the Month committee selects one parish family that models Christian family values and visibly lives them every day. Once a year, each participating council also selects one of the previous twelve Family of the Month winners to represent the council/parish as the potential international Family of the Year. The Knights of Columbus Family of the Year is chosen by the Supreme Council and recognized each year at the annual Supreme Convention.

### **Family Fully Alive -- Featured Program**

During his visit to the Philippines, Pope Francis cited the need for “holy and loving families to protect the beauty and truth of the family in God’s plan and to be an example for other families” (Pope Francis, Address to Families at the Mall of Asia Arena, 2015). The Family Fully Alive monthly devotions are concrete ways that Knights of Columbus, in solidarity with Pope Francis, can support the growth of holy and loving families in the Church. The Family Fully Alive Program asks families to invite God into their homes and cultivates each family as a miniature domestic church.

To this end, the program provides monthly themes, scripture verses and activities. Through prayer and reflection, each family has the opportunity to grow in holiness together. This is a flexible program that can be started at any time of the year and continues year-round. Councils will order physical booklets to distribute or direct parish families to program resources on [kofc.org](http://kofc.org).

### **Family Prayer Night -- Featured Program**

Catholics often struggle with the reality that they do not have the opportunity to socialize and/or pray with other faith-filled Catholic families. It can be quite a challenge to raise our children in the faith when their only exposure comes from Mom and Dad. Put plainly, the majority of our time can easily be spent in secular circles unless we intentionally create ways to live out the domestic church.

Family Prayer Night is an opportunity for children to be exposed to regular people living their faith in a casual setting. Families of council members, as well as other Catholic families within the parish and community, will gather for prayer, dinner and fellowship. Multiple groups can be formed and families are encouraged to rotate between these groups.

### **Consecration to the Holy Family**

To help families live out the joy of Christ, Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William Lori has composed a prayer through which families will come together to consecrate themselves under the protection of the Holy Family. In this prayer, we ask for the aid or intercession of the perfect son Jesus Christ, Mary the perfect mother, and Joseph who is a model for every father. Councils will guide their parishes and community to understand and offer this prayer. Preparing for the Consecration to the Holy Family is not a single event. It is choosing a way of life for your family. Through this consecration, each participant is consciously choosing to be a beacon of God’s love through His Church.



### **Family Week**

Knights of Columbus councils will dedicate a special week of the year to recognizing the vital importance of families as the foundation of our domestic church and to promoting Catholic family values. When choosing a week, councils should consider factors affecting parishioner schedules, such as school vacations, holidays, and other local events. Though traditionally celebrated in the summer to commemorate the birth and death of our founder, Blessed Michael J. McGivney, this program can take place anytime during the year.

### **Good Friday Family Promotion**

Despite Good Friday's central role in the heart of Christianity, attendance at services remains low. In an effort to change this, councils will encourage participation in Good Friday services through a promotional campaign. Setting an example for their community, Knights will attend Good Friday services with their families and work with their pastors to encourage increased parishioner involvement at these liturgies. In conjunction with these efforts, councils will also work to educate their parishes about the plight of Christians in the Holy Land.

### **Keep Christ in Christmas**

The Knights of Columbus offers multiple activities that promote Christmas and the season of Advent in their proper context: Journey to the Inn, Spread the Light of Christ, Crèche or Advent Wreath Blessing, and the Christmas Poster Contest. These programs are centered on the example of the Holy Family and the Nativity of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

The Keep Christ in Christmas (KCIC) Program brings all KCIC activities together under one umbrella. It encourages councils to prompt their neighbors to shift from a preoccupation with materialism to the light of Christ and the spirit of giving. KCIC activities include whatever efforts best suit the parish and community of a particular council and do not need to originate from the Supreme Council.

***For information, resources, guidebooks and much more  
for each of these programs, visit:  
[nebraskakofc.org/programs/family.html](http://nebraskakofc.org/programs/family.html)***



**FAMILY**

## COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

*Knights are all called to serve others. Our first principle is Charity – at home with our families and in our communities. When Knights of Columbus members come together, they accomplish great things.*

### **Coats for Kids -- Featured Program**

Provide warmth for children in need during cold winter months. The goal of the Coats for Kids program is to ensure that no child in North America goes without a coat during the winter season. Through the dedication of councils across the United States and Canada, hundreds of thousands of new winter coats have been distributed to children since program inception.

### **Global Wheelchair Mission -- Featured Program**

The Knights of Columbus has been partners with the American Wheelchair Mission since 2003 and Canadian Wheelchair Foundation since 2006, under the umbrella of the Global Wheelchair Mission. This initiative provides aid to those who lack the freedom of mobility in our communities and around the world. Whether councils are presenting wheelchairs to local veterans and neighbors in need or donating funds to benefit those abroad, mobility brings with it independence and dignity. Obtained at discounted prices, these wheelchairs change the lives of their recipients. Working with the Global Wheelchair Mission is a perfect opportunity to put your faith into action and involve the entire community in the rewarding charitable work done by your council.

### **Habitat for Humanity -- Featured Program**

Knights of Columbus councils work closely with Habitat for Humanity, a nonprofit Christian organization, to build homes with families in need at substantially reduced costs. Each year, councils throughout the Order donate a considerable number of volunteer hours and dollars to this worthy cause. To satisfy program requirements, councils are asked to donate a minimum of \$1,000 or 200 service hours to Habitat for Humanity projects in their community.

### **Helping Hands**

The Helping Hands program is designed to recognize the important work many councils already do to care for the most disadvantaged members of our communities — the homeless, the addicted, the elderly who may feel isolated and abandoned, and many others. The requirements for this program are very broad in order to allow councils to serve their community in whatever way is most needed. One idea is to partner with Cross Catholic Outreach to see how you can serve your local community.

### **Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest**

This contest encourages today's youth to be more connected to their community and their faith. The goal of this program is to involve young Catholics in grades 8 to 12 (public, private, parochial or home schools during the current school year) in civic discourse and instill in them religious and life-affirming values. The essay should be 500-750 words on a specific topic, changing every other year. Entrants will be judged on grammar, style, and how clearly they present the theme in a way that showcases creativity, imagination and overall development of the topic.

### **Disaster Preparedness**

Communities can be brought to a halt when disaster occurs – from large natural disasters to local crises. As community leaders, Knights of Columbus can help ensure that their members, families and parish communities are prepared through a campaign promoting planning and education. This program motivates councils to take a holistic approach to emergency situations by readiness in times of crisis, assessing response capabilities, and learning how to properly respond well ahead of a disaster. Councils will also raise funds and teach (where applicable) in anticipation of larger efforts to assist brothers in need.

### **Free Throw Championship**

Since 1972, councils have sponsored the Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship for boys and girls from the ages of 9 to 14 to provide an athletic outlet and encourage the values of sportsmanship and healthy competition. Kids compete within their own gender and age and progress from local level to district, regional and state/province competitions. This program is a great way to introduce the Order to your community and recruit faithful family men of service.

### **Soccer Challenge**

The Soccer Challenge is a great way for councils to engage in their communities with an athletic event for youth that encourages the values of sportsmanship and healthy competition. Children demonstrate the most important skill in soccer – shooting accuracy on the penalty kick – and compete to reach the international level of competition. The program is also a way to introduce the Order to your community and recruit faithful family men of service.

### **Hockey Challenge**

The Hockey Challenge is a great way for councils to engage in their communities with an athletic event for youth that encourages the values of sportsmanship and healthy competition. Children demonstrate the most important skill in hockey- shooting accuracy on goal- and competing to reach the State/Province level of the competition. The program is also a way to introduce the Order to your community and recruit faithful family men of service.

***For information, resources, guidebooks and much more  
for each of these programs, visit:  
[nebraskakofc.org/programs/community.html](http://nebraskakofc.org/programs/community.html)***



**COMMUNITY**

## **LIFE PROGRAMS**

*The Knights of Columbus vigorously defends the dignity of each human being at every stage of life.*

### **March for Life--Featured Program**

The Knights of Columbus encourages others to choose life through public support of the pro-life cause. Knights can organize and participate in local/state/province/regional Marches for Life and/or organize participation of Knights/parishioners/students/etc., in bus trips to the national Marches in Washington, D.C., Ottawa, Mexico City, throughout the Philippines, or in other countries.

### **Special Olympics--Featured Program**

The Knights of Columbus has a unique partnership with the Special Olympics and has helped disabled athletes train for and compete in games around the world. Knights of Columbus councils have assisted with all aspects of the program from fundraising to feeding the athletes, organizing and judging events, and providing equipment and awards. Without the support of the Knights, participants would not be able to train for the events that they love. Participating councils provide at least \$2,000 in donations or 200 service hours in a fraternal year.

### **Ultrasound Initiative--Featured Program**

The Knights of Columbus works together as an organization to purchase ultrasound machines for qualifying pregnancy centers. Discounted prices for select machines are offered through preferred pricing agreements arranged by the Supreme Council. The list of preferred machines is provided to sponsoring councils after the pregnancy center is approved for funding by the local diocese and the Supreme Council. After the state and/or local council raises 50% of the cost, the Knights of Columbus Supreme Council will provide the other 50% to complete funding for purchase of an ultrasound. Or, if the council raises 100% of the cost of a vehicle outfitted to serve as a mobile medical unit for a pregnancy center, the Supreme Council will provide 100% of the funds for an ultrasound machine to be used in that vehicle.

### **Pregnancy Center Support--Featured Program**

More than 3,000 pro-life pregnancy centers now operate throughout territories of the Knights of Columbus. By the very nature of its founding, the Knights of Columbus is called to care for the widow and orphan. Abortion-vulnerable unborn children and mothers experiencing unexpected pregnancies certainly fall within that mandate. With aid from the Knights, pregnancy centers can offer support to help women choose life. Councils can “adopt” a pregnancy center and provide material, labor, and spiritual support throughout the year. Through the ASAP Initiative, for every \$500 your council or assembly donates to a pregnancy resource center or maternity home (up to \$2,000), the Supreme Council will donate \$100. Visit Aid and Support After Pregnancy (ASAP) for resources.

### **Aid and Support After Pregnancy (ASAP)--Featured Program**

On June 24, 2022 the U.S. Supreme Court upheld a Mississippi law banning abortion after 15 weeks of pregnancy, concurrently overturning Roe v. Wade, the landmark ruling that legalized abortion nationwide nearly 50 years ago. The Knights of Columbus is now strengthening its support for pregnancy resources centers and maternity homes through ASAP, a new pro-life initiative.

### **Novena for Life**

The protection of life is a sustained prayer intention of the Church, and in particular of the Knights of Columbus. Knights remain firmly committed to defending the right to life of every human being – from the moment of conception to natural death. To commemorate and bolster this important cause, councils will promote a novena, nine days of sustained prayer, to build up a culture of life in our parishes, homes and wider community.

### **Christian Refugee Relief**

Christians are at risk in areas all around the globe. The Knights of Columbus has responded with the Christian Refugee Relief Fund, which provides humanitarian assistance, primarily in Iraq, Syria and the surrounding region. Councils will aid this cause by collaborating with their parishes to spread awareness and raise funds to help these Christians and those in their care. In particular, councils are encouraged to utilize Solidarity Crosses as a fundraiser and prayer campaign in their parishes.

### **Mass for People with Special Needs**

People with special needs resulting from physical, emotional, mental or cognitive conditions are all around us in society, at school, at work, and in our families. It can be challenging for these important members of our society to participate in Mass due to physical and social barriers – or even family member anxiety. Celebrating a Mass for People with Special Needs can be the first of many steps toward integrating them into regular weekly or even daily Mass – and more deeply into all of the sacraments and other aspects of parish life. Holding this Mass sends the message that all of God’s children are welcome under the parish roof and that every person is an integral part of the parish family.

### **Silver Rose**

Each year, from early March through mid-December, Silver Roses are stewarded by Knights of Columbus councils along routes from Canada to Mexico. Every stop the Silver Rose makes throughout the pilgrimage is a rosary-centered occasion for Knights, parishioners and community members to pray for respect for life, for the spiritual renewal of each nation, and for the advancement of the message of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

***For information, resources, guidebooks and much more  
for each of these programs, visit:  
[nebraskakofc.org/programs/life.html](http://nebraskakofc.org/programs/life.html)***



**LIFE**

## **STATE FAITH DIRECTORS – MARK & JULIE MAIN**

My name is Mark Main. My wife Julie and I have been married 36 years. I belong to Council 11001, Blessed Sacrament, Lincoln. I most recently was Regional Growth Director for Region 1. I have held the following positions within the Knights of Columbus: State Faith Director (2 terms 2019-2023), District Deputy 6 years, Grand Knight, Council Trustee, Faithful Navigator, and Assembly Trustee.



Julie and I have 4 children: daughter Erin (Ethan) Blackledge which includes our two grandchildren Penelope and Rhett; daughters Ashley and Allison and finally our son Alex (wife Maria).

I am currently the Store Manager at St. Louise Gift and Thrift which is part of Catholic Social Services of Southern Nebraska. Julie is an Algebra Teacher at East High School in Lincoln. I thank Jesus every day for helping me become a great individual of this great order. I would not be here today if it weren't for My Savior, my wife, my children, and this organization. I have learned many things from this Order, and I plan to pass on that information that I learned onto the order for all Catholic gentlemen.

### **Supreme - Recommended Faith Programs**

#### **REFUND SUPPORT VOCATION PROGRAM (RSVP) - FEATURED**

Keep the faith alive by financially and prayerfully supporting our seminarians and postulants.

#### **INTO THE BREACH - FEATURED**

Videos and study guides deepen men's spirituality and formation to combat the crisis of religious faith in our world.

#### **SPIRITUAL REFLECTION – FEATURED**

Create annual opportunities for prayer and reflection as a fraternity. Under the guidance of their chaplain, councils can attend a retreat or day of reflection together or organize their own event for the men of their parish. In conjunction with pastors, councils and jurisdictions can hold low-cost retreats of their own. These events might be open only to council members or men of the parish – or may be open to entire families. If councils are unable to organize these events themselves, they could attend an existing retreat as a group. For additional information visit <https://kofc.org/rosary>.

#### **HOLY HOUR – FEATURED**

Encourage deep personal encounters with Christ.

#### **PILGRIM ICON PROGRAM –**

Unite your community in a special act of prayer and devotion to the saints by hosting the pilgrim icon

#### **BUILDING THE DOMESTIC CHURCH KIOSK –**

Help strengthen families as the domestic church by providing exceptional religious education materials to all Catholics

#### **ROSARY PROGRAM –**

Build faithful families and communities by praying the rosary

#### **SACRAMENTAL GIFTS –**

Support families during the important events in the life of the domestic Church (the sacraments)

**Bold** denotes Featured Programs – When your council conducts a featured program and satisfies the associated requirements, it will receive two credits toward that program category.

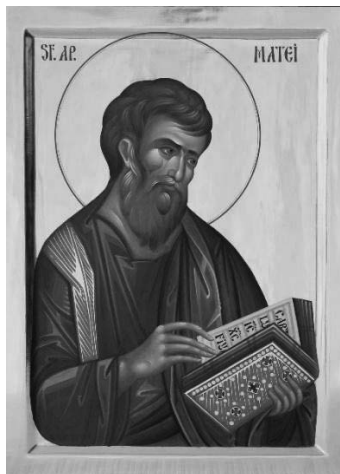
### **KEYSTONE PROJECT: Council Holy Hour**

Encourage deep personal encounters with Christ through Eucharistic Adoration in the form of Holy Hours and Eucharistic Processions. As Catholics, we believe in the Real Presence: "The unique, true presence of Christ in the Eucharist under the species or appearances of bread and wine." CCC glossary. We believe that Jesus Christ is truly present-body, blood, soul and divinity-in the Eucharist.

As such, we are compelled to grow in our devotion to Jesus I the Eucharist and to share His presence with the world, all councils are encouraged to participate in a regular Holy Hour in their parish. This may take the form of Knights taking one of the hours in a 24 hour adoration or other structured parish adoration program. Or, a council or assembly may work with their Chaplain to create their own monthly, quarterly or other periodic hour of adoration, just for Knights and family members. This Hour can be shared among the Brother Knights of the council and assembly. This should be reported on the ICC Faith Project form to be counted as a Keystone qualifying project.

### **OTHER IDEAS FOR FAITH ACTIVITIES OR PROJECTS**

- Council members involved in lay ministries.
- Annual Mass for deceased Knights.
- Promote a Council or parish retreat (1/2 day or full day).
- Promote attendance at a personal silent retreat; Council to help support a new or potential Knight attending the retreat. Open to all Catholic families.
- Help with Masses for shut ins.
- Transportation to Mass for people in need of a ride.
- "Keep Christ in Christmas" campaign by selling Christmas cards.
- Promote a Mission Sunday.
- Promote an inspirational speaker.
- Promote special services, i.e., Benediction, Silver Rose, Marian Hour or Festival, Outdoor Mass.
- Sponsor 40 hours of prayer.
- Sponsor a candidate for RCIA.
- Teach CCD or religious education.
- Present St. Joseph medals to the fathers of baptized children and a silk rose to the mothers.
- Promote devotion to Father McGivney by distributing the pamphlet "The Spirituality of Father Michael J. McGivney" (#4196) and the flyer Apostle for the 21st Century (4064) available in various languages.
- Show the production 'The Life & Legacy of Father Michael J. McGivney' to your council, family, or ask that it be shown on the local cable access station. The DVD is available by calling the Guild at 203-752- 4087 or [guild@kofc.org](mailto:guild@kofc.org).
- Distribute Bibles, rosaries, and catechisms to parochial schools, religious education classes, and mission



## **STATE FAMILY DIRECTORS – MIKE & BETH ESSELSTEIN**

Mike and Beth reside in Mitchell, NE. They have been married for 27 years and have 6 children. Katherine 27, (her husband- Cobe and 7mon son, Wayne), Maria, Emily 19, Thomas 16, Lucas 15, and Nicholas 6. Mike's Mom, Eleanor, joined the bunch this year and is enjoyed by all. They are members of St. Agnes Parish in Scottsbluff. Mike is a Eucharistic Minister, Usher, and serves as President of the Parish Council. Thomas and Lucas are altar servers. Beth is a member of Catholic Daughters, where she serves as Financial Secretary.



Mike is a member of Fr. Timothy P. Molony council #2681. He has served as Grand Knight, Deputy Grand Knight, and Trustee. He has also served on the State Membership team and District Deputy. Beth works as a Home Health Occupational Therapist. Mike works for a local farmer where they raise corn, edible beans, alfalfa, and cattle. In their free time, Beth tends to her 3 gardens and Mike helps with 4H. Spending time with our children and watching all of their activities. They also enjoy their large extended family from Oregon to Connecticut.

### **FAMILY ACTIVITIES**

The Knights of Columbus, founded by Father Michael J. McGivney, was established, to take care of families. The family stands at the core of the Knights of Columbus's beliefs and ideals as a Catholic, family, fraternal service organization. The importance of family is vital to our society, as family is essential to how we learn and live. As Knights of Columbus families, we hold as our example the Holy Family, where they model Love, Faith, Respect, and Obedience. On a local, state, and national level, the Knights of Columbus promotes many activities to encourage family interaction, volunteerism, support for the Church, and a sense of community.

The Knights of Columbus offers ideas on how to promote and encourage families within your council. These are only a few ideas of ways in which to help your council get started. These activities should be fun, enjoyable, and meaningful and should be open to both members and non-members. These activities may also be compatible with other works within the council or parish.

### **SUPREME COUNCIL FEATURED FAMILY PROGRAM**

#### **Food for Families Program:**

The featured program for the Family Activities category of the Columbian Award is Food for Families. If your Council participates in Food for Families, it may be eligible to receive a refund for qualifying donations and credit for all four Family Activity requirements of the Columbian Award. To participate in the program your Council must do the following:

- Contact your local food pantry or parish soup kitchen to ensure that they will be able to receive the food and ask what their specific needs are.
- Display posters / flyers promoting the event around your parish and community.
- Provide adequate receptacles for donated items and make sure they are emptied frequently.
- A minimum of \$500.00 or 1,000 pounds of food must be contributed. Contributions are cumulative, so the Council can make multiple contributions to reach the minimum dollar or pounds required.
- Complete the Food for Families Reimbursement Program Application (#10057) and submit to Supreme.

#### **BUILDING THE DOMESTIC CHURCH**

There are two programs that fall under the State Family Activities banner. They are:

- The Family Fully Alive - This is a twelve-month program that promotes family prayer with meditations and scripture readings. It is to be promoted within the parish with the Council's participation.
- Father's Day Affirmation of Wedding Vows – This can be a special ceremony either during or after Mass and can be held with Corporate Communion. It is to be led by Catholic husbands and fathers.



## **SUPREME RECOMMENDED FAMILY PROGRAMS**

**Food for Families (Featured Program), Family of the Month/Year, Keep Christ in Christmas, Family Fully Alive, Family Week, Consecration to the Holy Family, Family Prayer Night and Good Friday Family Promotion.** There are many other Family programs that your Council can do and include the following:

- Celebrate Knights of Columbus Family week with a family Mass, picnic, dinner, or other activities that both promote and highlight the family.
- Participate in the Order's Family of the Month program, honoring Council families who exemplify the values taught by our Church and our Order. Full details are provided in the Family of the Month booklet (#1993) provided to each Council. Make sure to recognize your Family of the Month in your church bulletin and in the local media.
- Promote Fathers for Good. The centerpiece of the initiative is an interactive website, [fathersforgood.org](http://fathersforgood.org), which offers the St. Joseph Series booklets for men and can be ordered online.
- Organize family Corporate Communion breakfasts that bring together Council and parish families.
- Plan an annual marriage vow renewal program for couples in your Council and parish.

### **KEYSTONE PROJECT: Family of the Month**

This year's Keystone Project is the Family of the Month Program. The Knights of Columbus Family of the Month program promotes and supports the development of strong and vibrant families by recognizing the good work being done every day in the homes of our neighbors. Recognized families outwardly exhibit strong ties of love and faith, exemplifying Catholic family values and making meaningful contributions to their parish and larger community. This program encourages councils to recognize some of the great families in their parish(es) and communities. For additional information visit download the guidebook from Supreme's website: <https://www.kofc.org/en/resources/faith-in-action-programs/family/family-of-the-month-year/1993-family-of-the-month-book.pdf>.

For the Keystone Project, you will need to submit a family in at least 5 months from March 2025 through February 2026. Only families submitted on the Form 10784 available on Supreme's website will be counted: <https://www.kofc.org/en/what-we-do/faith-in-action-programs/resources/index.html?1tab=1tab3&icon-tabs=5>.

### **Family of the Year Awards**

Choose a family (1st Place and Runner-up) from your council whom you believe truly reflect the traditions and relationships and fabric of the Holy Family. Be specific and detailed in your explanation so that your nomination addresses the following:

- Demonstrates how the family members are interdependent and share with one another and their parish family.
- Focuses on the entire family, parents, and children alike, and how the family lives out and shares their Catholic faith.
- Shows the way the family lives their lives reinforcing the message of the Church. Shows how the family makes other people's lives better.
- Include a photograph of the family as part of the nomination.
- Submit the nomination and photograph of the family to:

**Mike & Beth Esselstein**  
**130417 County Rd D**  
**Mitchell NE 69357**

**NOMINATIONS ARE DUE NO LATER THAN MARCH 1, 2026**

## **Suggested Family Program Activities:**

### **January**

- Offer a Mass intention for one council family each week or month.
- Respect for Life – Present each family with a rose and medal for all baptized babies in the parish for the previous year.

### **February**

- Remember that Family of the Year Nominations must be postmarked by March 1.
- Offer a Mass intention for one council family each week or month.
- World Marriage Day/Valentine's Day. Organize a night out for couples and provide babysitting for children.

### **March**

- Family of the Year Nominations must be postmarked by March 1.
- Offer a Mass intention for one council family each week or month.
- Lent: Promote family almsgiving and sacrifice or attend all Stations/Lenten services as a family – keep track of how many families attend each week.

### **April**

- Offer a Mass intention for one council family each week or month.
- Take the family to the Nebraska K of C State Convention.

### **May**

- Offer a Mass intention for one council family each week or month.
- Month of Mary: Promote family Rosary.
- Pray a Living Rosary involving the Knights/parish families.
- Celebrate Mothers: Have a viewing of a family appropriate show/movie in a hall and serve snacks.

### **June**

- Offer a Mass intention for one council family each week or month.
- Hold a Council Family Picnic.
- We All Scream for Ice Cream: Ice Cream Social for families or make homemade ice cream.
- Celebrate Fathers: Have a viewing of the family show Courageous or other family appropriate show/movie in a hall and serve snacks.

### **July**

- Offer a Mass intention for one council family each week or month.
- Father-Child Fun Night: All Knights/parishioners and their children do a fun activity – fishing, bowling, host a dance, camping, etc.

### **August**

- Offer a Mass intention for one council family each week or month.
- Hold a memorial Mass for deceased members of the council family – August 14 is the anniversary of Fr. McGivney's death.
- Host a Back-to-School Celebration for families.

### **September**

- Offer a Mass intention for one council family each week or month.
- Football Fever: Any Husker fans within the Knights? Sponsor a game day get-together. Begin with a family Rosary for safety of athletes followed by family-friendly tailgating, games such as your own punt/pass/kick contest, and, of course, the Husker game itself.

### **October**

- Offer a Mass intention for one council family each week or month.
- Community Cleanup: Knights and families pitch in to clean up church grounds or adopt an elderly person to clean up their yard – mow, rake, etc.
- Halloween: Sponsor a Halloween party or Trunk-or-Treat.

## November

- Offer Mass intention for one council family each week or month.
- Hold a Memorial Mass for deceased members of the council family in early November for All Souls Day.
- Promote families to volunteer at a food pantry, shelter, or CSS to help people in need; have one Knight family volunteer each month or as a Council in November.
- Veteran's Day: Have children and Knights make cards for veterans in hospitals and/or nursing homes; thank them for their service to our country.

## December

- Offer a Mass intention for one council family each week or month.
- Good Angels: Encourage Knights and parish families to adopt a family in need or give to a Good Tree program.

### **Consecration to the Holy Family**

O Lord Jesus,  
you lived in the home of Mary and Joseph in Nazareth.  
There you grew in age, wisdom and grace  
as you prepared to fulfill your mission  
as our Redeemer.

**We entrust our family to you.**

O Blessed Mary,  
you are the Mother of our Savior.  
At Nazareth you cared for Jesus  
and nurtured him in the peace and joy of your home.

**We entrust our family to you.**

O Saint Joseph,  
you provided a secure and loving home for Jesus and Mary,  
and gave us a model of fatherhood  
while showing us the dignity of work.

**We entrust our family to you.**

Holy Family,  
we consecrate ourselves and our family to you.  
May we be completely united  
in a love that is lasting, faithful  
and open to the gift of new life.  
Help us to grow in virtue,  
to forgive one another from our hearts,  
and to live in peace all our days.  
Keep us strong in faith, persevering in prayer,  
diligent in our work, and generous toward those in need.  
May our home, O Holy Family,  
truly become a domestic church  
where we reflect your example in our daily life.  
Amen.

**Jesus, Mary and Joseph, pray for us!**

## **STATE COMMUNITY DIRECTOR – MICHAEL HOWICK, SR.**

I am honored to have been asked by State Deputy Elect Schaeffer to serve as Community Director for this term. Previously, I held State positions on the Membership Team as a Regional Growth Director serving the Omaha area councils, in addition to positions held at the Council (St. Elizabeth Ann 9771) and Assembly (Fr. Michael McGivney 2540) levels. I look forward to helping grow the Order's visibility and reach across the State using the resources and manpower of our councils to further Fr. McGivney's vision in our communities.



Outside of Catholic fraternalism, my wife (Katie) and I are outnumbered with six feral children, filling our home with the joyful sounds of fighting children and chaos. We have four boys; Nathan (17), Michael (11), Patrick (7), Owen (5) and two girls; Norah (4) and Brigid (2). I look forward to working with the councils across the state in the coming term and I am always available to help (hopefully) as a resource to anyone who is in need of assistance with their council's community programs.

### **Supreme Community Featured Community Programs**

Your Council may receive credit **for two of the four** Community Activities on the Columbian Award by conducting one of these programs.

#### **Habitat for Humanity:**

One of the featured programs for the Community Activities category for the Columbian Award is Habitat for Humanity. The following steps are required to participate:

- Contact your local Habitat for Humanity affiliate or visit their website at [habitat.org](http://habitat.org) for information on an affiliate in your area.
- Discuss with your affiliate the volunteer opportunities available for your Council.
- Involve the entire parish community in the project.
- Make it a family project and be sure to publicize the event. Invite those interested in joining your Council to participate.
- Report participation on Partnership Profile Report with Habitat for Humanity (#10092).
- Your Council must donate at least \$1,000.00 and 200 man-hours to the project.

#### **Global Wheelchair Mission:**

Another featured program for the Community Activities category is the Global Wheelchair Mission. The following steps are required to participate:

- Promote the program in your Council, parish, and community.
- Conduct targeted fund raisers with the proceeds going to the Global Wheelchair Mission.
- Hold information nights on the project to keep awareness up.
- Complete and submit the Global Wheelchair Report Form (#10071).
- Raise enough funds to purchase an entire container of 100 wheelchairs.

#### **KEYSTONE PROJECT: Coats for Kids**

Today, eighteen percent of American children and fourteen percent of Canadian children live in poverty. As a result, many families cannot afford to provide even the necessity of a warm winter coat. Putting faith into action, Knights councils, since the program started in 2009, have purchased and distributed more than a million new winter coats to children throughout North America.

Brothers, all Councils in our State can participate in this program, no matter the size of your Council. Your Council can work with other Councils to buy cases of coats in your District or Region. Councils can plan a distribution event through your Parish or school. You can reach out to the Parish or school staff to learn of the children in need. Area Missions are a great place to check as well. This program exemplifies the Core Values of Charity, Unity and Fraternity within the Knights of Columbus. So please consider this opportunity within your Family of Parishes, as well as Councils within your District and Region to make the impact. This event is extremely rewarding to see the families of the children who receive the coats.

This winter, consider getting your council involved in this great program. You can order coats by going on Supplies Online. Another option that your council can pursue is to run a parish/community-wide coat drive. Make sure to get information out to your community early enough to bring in the coats so that they can be distributed before the winter season is in full force. **There will be a State Council Drive in each Diocese in Nebraska. Plans are to have a host Council with neighboring councils assisting along with some State Officers and DD's. These will be held in the month of October 2025**

### **OTHER COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES**

Some project suggestions are limited only by imagination, and here are some we suggest:

- Help elderly with website searches for medicines, medical insurance, and information.
- Set up a meeting with the county sheriff or other elected officials to arrange a prayer service, such as praying the rosary, with the prisoners at the county or city jail.
- Trunk or Treat at Halloween at church or public parking lots.
- Book clubs.
- Help at public functions such as county fairs.
- Create awareness by combining efforts with other service organizations and talking to city councils for needs.
- Provide rides to voting polls.
- Financially assist distressed individuals with monthly utility bills.
- Attend weather spotter training sessions and set up teams for severe weather.
- Work with local library to create computer skills class, designed for the elderly, to teach e-mail, Zoom, Facebook and other social networking skills.
- When motels are renovating rooms, inquire about box springs and mattresses for the poor and needy.

### **LEONARD FEEHAN MEMORIAL COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD**

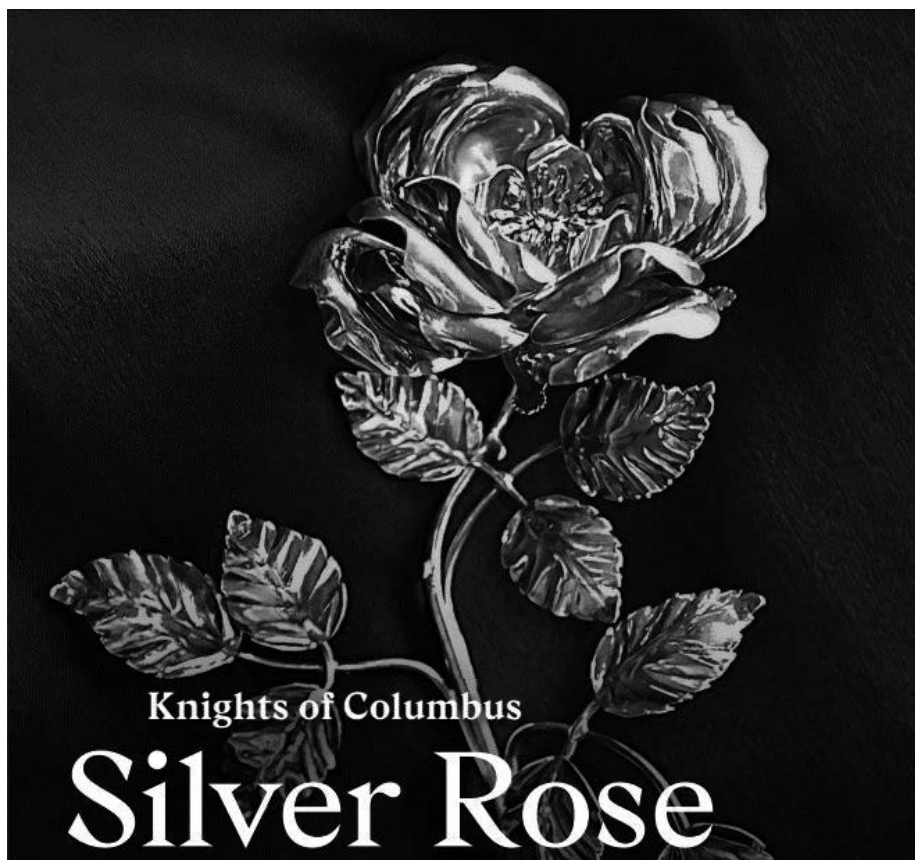
First given out in 2007, this award is dedicated to the outstanding service that Leonard provided to his community as well as to the Knights of Columbus. Leonard was always looking for ways to better his community and help those who lived there. The Leonard Feehan Memorial Community Service Award is given in recognition to a Council that has gone out of its way to work with other community groups to improve a specific aspect of the community. Applications for this award will be available on the State website after the first of the year.

### **COMMUNITY SUPREME AND STATE SERVICE AWARDS CRITERIA:**

- Detailed description of the project.
- Man-hours and number of Knights participating.
- Types of fundraisers to support the project.
- Amount contributed to community (if applicable).
- Benefit to the community.

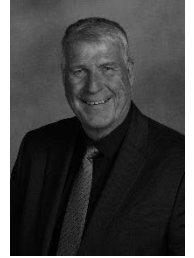
### **THE SILVER ROSE PROGRAM:**

The State of Nebraska Knights of Columbus will receive the Silver Rose from our Brother Knights from Colorado **August 10, 2025**. Then it will be transferred to our Brother Knights in Kansas by a Nebraska State Delegation on **September 13, 2025**. In the meantime, the Silver Rose will travel throughout the State on a predetermined route. Unfortunately, the time is very limited (30 days) to allow all councils to participate in this program. Each year, the Silver Rose makes its way across North America from Canada, through the United States, to Mexico. In 2001, Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson expanded the program by beginning the "Running of the Rose" from the 119th Annual Meeting of the Supreme Council in Toronto. "The 'Running of the Rose' is a perfect program for the Knights of Columbus," said Supreme Knight Anderson. "Through it we honor not only Our Lady of Guadalupe and express the unity of the Order, but we also reaffirm the Order's dedication to the sanctity of human life. It is to the Blessed Mother that we turn in prayer as we work to end the Culture of Death that grips our society. As we think in terms of 'One Life, One Rose,' it is most appropriate that we turn to Our Lady of Guadalupe who made known her will through Juan Diego and the miracle of the roses." The Silver Rose program features a sculpted silver rose carried by Knights from Canada through the United States to Mexico, bringing the Culture of Life message on its journey. The Silver Rose is received at councils and parishes along its journey, and masses and prayer services are offered. Special border ceremonies with Fourth Degree honor guards are held when the rose is transferred from one state to another and internationally. Prayer books will be provided.



## **STATE YOUTH CHAIRMAN – GARY GROTELUSCHEN**

Gary joined the Knights of Columbus, Council 12086 St Isidore Parish, in Columbus in 2011. He and his wife, Joann have been members of St Isidore Church since 2010. He has been a Knight for over a decade and has previously served the Council as Outside Guard, Deputy Grand Knight, Grand Knight and is currently serving as Trustee 3. He has also served as the Council's Soccer Challenge Chairman since the council. Gary's wife Joann is a member of the Christian Mothers and with Gary have been serving as chair for Donut Sunday, an undertaking started in 2025 in the Church's newly built Parish Center. Gary and Joann have 4 children, Justin, Amber, Ryan and April. All four are married giving the couple 9 wonderful grandchildren. Grandchildren's sports and school activities consume what's left of an extremely busy schedule.



### **YOUTH ACTIVITIES**

The future of our faith, our religion, our church, and even the Knights of Columbus itself rests with the youth of today. Therefore, as members of the Knights, we need to take an active role in supporting our youth, providing opportunities for them to learn our holy religion, and to provide them with quality examples of Christian lifestyles. As members and families of the Knights of Columbus we have a long-standing tradition of supporting youth at the Council, District, State, and Supreme levels with programs for youth of all ages and backgrounds.

#### **Knights of Columbus Soccer Challenge: Saturday, October 25, 2025, at the Schuyler Field House.**

The Field House is an indoor facility connected to Schuyler Middle School. The address is 200 W 10<sup>th</sup> St, Schuyler, NE 68661. Registration begins at 12:30 with shooting at 1:00 PM. As a state, Nebraska offers this program to boys and girls ages 9 to 14 (based on their age on September 1). This competition is open to all youth, no matter if they attend a Catholic school or not.

The contest will be divided into four levels of competition: Council, District, Regional, and State. State winners will be forwarded on to the Supreme office for consideration at the international level. In 2023 and 2024, Nebraska had an international winner. The youth chairman is responsible for regional competition medals and state competition trophies. The Youth Chairman does not set district competition or regional dates, those dates are set by Grand Knights and District Deputies. Council competitions should be held sometime during the end of August or early September, with Districts taking place by the end of September. Regional competitions should be scheduled for early October. All the information that you need to run your Council competition can be found in the Knights of Columbus Soccer Challenge Kit. Kit and program guide sheets can be ordered at Officers Online. This kit can be ordered by your Grand Knight, Deputy Grand Knight, Council Youth Director, or your Council Knights of Columbus Soccer Challenge Chairman, and will be provided to your council free of charge. Soccer challenge information can be found at the link below.

<https://www.kofc.org/en/what-we-do/faith-in-action-programs/resources/index.html?1tab=1tab3>

If you feel that your council will not have enough participants to hold your own local competition, consider working with a nearby council or councils, combining your manpower, while still providing the opportunity for the youth you serve to participate in the Knights of Columbus Soccer Challenge. If you are going to be doing this, please make sure that you clearly mark all the entry forms for the respective councils and that each council participating fills out its own participation report form to submit to the state. If you have any concerns or questions about running the Knights of Columbus Soccer Challenge in your council, please make sure to contact the State Youth Director.

Regional Competition will be held IF MORE than one District holds the competition in any particular Region. If there is only one District competition held in any particular Region, District Winners and runner ups will be automatically advanced to state competition. Regional Soccer Challenge Score sheets from the winners and runner ups need to be mailed to the Youth Chairman no later than October 20 so the State program can be made. Only regional winners qualify for the state event, but runner ups are collected in case the winner cannot make the State event. State winners in each age group, council number, score and address are submitted to [fraternalmission@kofc.org](mailto:fraternalmission@kofc.org) on or before December 15.

### **Knights of Columbus Free Throw Contest: April 11, 2025, at Grand Island Central Catholic High School.**

The address of the high school is 1200 N Ruby Ave, Grand Island, NE 68803. Registration begins at 9AM and the competition starts at 10 AM. The Knights of Columbus Free Throw Contest is a tried and proven program to involve our youth and families in the Knights of Columbus. Make sure to start your preparations for the council level competition early enough to ensure that you can contact youth prior to the Christmas holiday by placing posters and fliers in the schools. Just like the Knights of Columbus Soccer Challenge, the Knights of Columbus Free Throw Contest is open to boys and girls ages 9 to 14 (this is based on their age on January 1). The competition is also open to youth both in Catholic schools and public schools. The contest is again divided into four levels: Council, District, Regional, and State. The youth chairman is responsible for regional competition medals and state competition trophies. The Youth Chairman does not set district competition or regional dates those dates are set by Grand Knights and District Deputies. State winners will be submitted to the Supreme office for consideration in the international competition. In 2023, Nebraska had 1 International Award winner for a perfect score.

Council level competitions should be held during January and the District competition should be held during the early part of February. Regional competitions should be scheduled for the later part of February or the early part of March. The State competition is usually the Saturday before or Saturday after Easter depending on gym availability and State Convention dates. Knights of Columbus Free Throw Contest Kits and program guide sheets can be ordered at Officers Online. This kit can be ordered by your Grand Knight, Deputy Grand Knight, Council Youth Director, or your Council Knights of Columbus Soccer Challenge Chairman, and will be provided to your council free of charge. Info found at this link: <https://www.kofc.org/en/what-we-do/faith-in-action-programs/resources/index.html?1tab=1tab3>.

If you feel that your council will not have enough participants to hold your own local competition, consider working with a nearby council or councils, combining your manpower, while still providing the opportunity for the youth you serve to participate in the Knights of Columbus Free Throw Contest. Please make sure that you clearly mark all the entry forms for the respective councils and that each council participating fills out its own participation report form to submit to the state. If you have any concerns or questions about running the Knights of Columbus Free Throw Contest in your council, please contact the State Youth Director.

Regional Free Throw Championship Score sheets from the winners and runner ups need to be mailed to the Youth Chairman no later than April 1 so the State program can be made. Only regional winners qualify for the state event, but runner ups are collected in case the winner cannot make the state event. State winners in each age group, council number, score and address are submitted to [fraternalmission@kofc.org](mailto:fraternalmission@kofc.org) after the competition.

### **KEYSTONE PROJECT: Knights of Columbus Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest:**

The Knights of Columbus "Keep Christ in Christmas" Poster Contest promotes the true spirit of Christmas in homes, schools, parishes, and communities. **As of 2024, there was a new entry form with 5 age/grade categories. Please use the new entry form going forward.** Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, as Knights, we urge the youth of our parish and community to remember that it is "CHRISTMAS" and that the reason for the season is the birth of our Savior. Supreme has created an official packet and guidelines for this contest. It can be found under Family Programs on the Supreme website.

Consider having this event run by your Faith Director and your Youth Chairman and handing out prizes for the top posters. Winning submissions from the Council level competitions must be submitted to the respective District Deputy by December 1. From there, posters are sent to the Youth Director to be judged at the Winter meeting which is usually the second weekend in December. Winning posters from each of the 5 grade divisions are then sent to Supreme for international consideration and the winners' home council will be presented an award at the State Convention in April. Grade divisions are Kindergarten, grades 1-2, grades 3-4, grades 5-6, and grades 7-8. Winning Posters must be submitted to Supreme by the State Youth Chairman by February 28 to be considered for an International Award.

If you are considering running this contest at your school, or if you have any questions about it, please contact your District Deputy or the State Youth Chairman. More information is at this link: <https://www.kofc.org/en/resources/faith-in-action-programs/family/keep-christ-in-christmas/5024-kcic-poster-contest-guide-book.pdf>



## **STATE LIFE DIRECTORS - MIKE, PSD, FSD & MARY CONRAD**

### **CULTURE OF LIFE FOUNDATION DIRECTORS**

Mike and Mary Conrad reside in Fort Calhoun, Nebraska. Mary is a registered nurse at Children's Hospital in Omaha, and Mike is a Senior Claims Representative and Investigator for the Metropolitan Utilities District. Mike has served the Order in numerous positions from Grand Knight of his home council to State Deputy of Nebraska from 2008-2010. Mike served the Order as a Supreme Director and in doing so was the Order's Pro Life and Family Chairman.



The couple have four adult children, Katelynne, Alyssa, Christa, and Seth. Katelynne is an account manager for LinkedIn in Omaha, Alyssa is an Occupational Therapist for Sanford Hospital in Sioux Falls, SD, Christa is a manager for Children's Respite Care in Omaha, and Seth is currently working for his Alma matter Benedictine College. Mike and Mary have been married for 36 years, and both are Eucharistic Ministers for their parish, St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Fort Calhoun.

### **SUPREME COUNCIL FEATURED LIFE PROGRAMS**

#### **Ultrasound Program:**

A featured program within the Culture of Life Activities is the Ultrasound Program. A Council is eligible to receive one-half the cost of an ultrasound machine and receive credit **for two of the four** Life requirements for the Columbian Award. To participate in the Ultrasound Program your Council must:

- Raise at least one-half the cost of an ultrasound machine.
- Locate a pregnancy care center that is "pro-life" and prepared to receive, use, and maintain the ultrasound machine.
- Receive written approval from your Diocese.
- The center must be properly licensed under state and local laws, and a medical doctor must be affiliated with the center and oversee its operation.
- The medical personnel who will operate the ultrasound machine must be licensed and experienced. The center must have adequate insurance.
- The Council needs to complete and submit the Ultrasound Initiative Application (#4886)
- An Overview, Guidelines and FAQ's can be found on Supreme's website <http://kofc.org/en/resources/faith-in-action-programs/life/ultrasound/10699-ultrasound-guidebook.pdf>

***\*\*Note: If you have a facility in mind that may qualify for an ultrasound, please notify us so that we can help your council navigate through the paperwork.***

#### **March for Life:**

Counts **for two of the four** credits toward the Columbian Award.

The annual March for Life (normally held on January 22) in Washington, D.C., commemorates the anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court infamous *Roe v Wade* decision that legalized abortion on January 22, 1973. Your Council can fulfill all four requirements for the Columbian Award. To participate in the March for Life your Council must do the following:

- Plan on attending your national or state March for Life.
- Organize your own community's March for Life with your Council.
- Be sure to advertise your Council's participation in the March for Life.
- Display the Knights of Columbus emblem during the march.
- Have a minimum of 100 total marchers.
- Complete and submit the Columbian Award Application (#SP-7) with the specific details on your Council's participation.
- Additional information as well as links to order prayers cards, posters and billboards can be found on Supreme's website. <http://www.kofc.org/en/members/programs/culture-of-life/march-for-life.html>

### **KEYSTONE PROJECT: ASAP- Aid and Support After Pregnancy:**

Is the Knights of Columbus effort to support pregnant women, mothers and their babies by serving pregnancy resources centers and maternity homes.

- For every \$500 a council or assembly donates to a qualifying non-profit pregnancy resource center or maternity home (up to \$2,000), the Supreme Council will issue \$100 grant to the same qualifying organization.
- If a council or assembly qualifies for maximum match from Supreme the Culture of Life Foundation will also do an additional \$100 grant to the same qualifying organization.

What is the need? Pregnancy centers aid nearly 2 million clients each year. These organizations, and the women and babies they serve, are in dire need of financial contributions, donations of material goods, and other volunteer services. Funding of these organizations is 90% funded locally and 80% of the centers receive no government funding.

Ways to help:

- Baby bottle drives
- Baby and Maternity Item Drives
- Host a Tea Party- set a goal, enjoy some tea and support life
- Pregnancy Center or Maternity Home Open House
- Host a breakfast or dinner

For more information on the ASAP Program visit <https://www.kofc.org/en/what-we-do/faith-in-action-programs/life/aid-support-after-pregnancy.html>

### **Special Olympics:**

As a featured program, your Council can receive **two of the four credits** toward the Columbian Award.

The requirements are as follows:

- Invite the local or regional Special Olympics director to your Council to explain what Special Olympics is doing in your community and what its needs are.
- Publicize the event in your Council, parish, and community.
- Host a fundraiser with proceeds going to Special Olympics.
- Coordinate your Council's volunteers the day of the games.
- Complete and submit the Partnership Profile Report with Special Olympics (#4584).
- Your Council must donate a minimum of \$2000.00 and 200 man-hours to Special Olympics.

### **NEBRASKA CULTURE OF LIFE ACTIVITIES**

#### **One Rose, One Life Campaign:**

**One Rose, One Life is a State-run program where ALL funds collected must be submitted to the State Culture of Life Foundation.**

The Nebraska Knights of Columbus One Rose, One Life campaign is Nebraska's prime source of income for Culture of Life. All funds collected will be used to support pro-life organizations and activities throughout Nebraska.

Our goal is 100% council participation. Thank you to those councils who have diligently participated in this campaign year after year. If your council has never participated, please consider it this year.

A major objective of the Culture of Life Foundation is to place ultrasounds in qualified pregnancy care centers throughout Nebraska. To date, One Rose, One Life funds have helped to purchase nineteen ultrasound machines in Nebraska.

In addition to the Ultrasound Initiative, many organizations, in all three Nebraska dioceses, benefit from this source of income. They include, but are not limited to, the Nebraska Catholic Conference, local Right-To-Life and Birthright chapters, and crisis pregnancy-help centers throughout Nebraska. We also support Nebraska Pro-Life Conference's Essay contest and the Culture of Life Art Contest with our funds. Councils also can receive funds for billboards (matching funds up to \$500/side) or for special pro-life programs or needs.

If you know of an organization/council that would benefit from some of the One Rose, One Life funds, they must complete a "Request for Funds" form and return it to the Culture of Life Directors for consideration by the Board of Directors. The form is available on the Nebraska State Knights of Columbus website at [https://nebraskakofc.org/file\\_download/inline/eb47bebd-66e6-4c7c-9e4f-ce00cc7ad558](https://nebraskakofc.org/file_download/inline/eb47bebd-66e6-4c7c-9e4f-ce00cc7ad558).

Prayer is the greatest action we can take in battling the culture of death. Only through prayer, fasting, and our witness to Christ's love will we be able to change the hearts and minds of the many people who support abortion on demand. The One Rose, One Life Prayer cards are a good reminder for the importance of continued prayers throughout the year, not just during the campaign.

**Here is how you can make a difference:**

- Choose a weekend for the campaign, typically on a weekend close to the anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision that legalized abortion on January 22, 1973.
- Appoint a chairman. This usually is your council's Culture of Life Chairman. Make sure that he will enthusiastically rally the council to become involved.
- Sample pulpit and bulletin announcements as well as a flyer can be found on the Nebraska K of C website, [www.nebraskakofc.org](http://www.nebraskakofc.org).
- Determine how many prayer cards and envelopes your parish will need. Figure about two or three prayer cards per family as a rule of thumb. For envelopes, figure at least half the number of families in your parish.
- **IMPORTANT:** Let your District Deputy know how many prayer cards and envelopes you will need by **October 15th**, to allow ample time for printing, counting, and sorting. Cards and envelopes will be distributed to the DD's. Prayers cards are available in Spanish and English, so specify your desired number of each language.
- Contact your pastor and/or parish administrator early to get their approval of the target weekend. **IMPORTANT:** If this weekend conflicts with other church or council activities at your parish, by all means choose another weekend which will provide the most exposure. Ask your priest to support the fund drive in the parish bulletin and especially from the pulpit. A few words of encouragement from your priest are perhaps the single most important thing that will determine the success of your campaign. Try to have the prayer from the prayer card recited, either before, during, or after Mass.
- Make sure your chairman has an ample number of Knights to assist at each Mass to pass out prayer cards; before or after Mass is your council's decision. Envelopes can be passed out as well. There are some councils that put the envelopes at the end of each pew, and some insert them in their bulletins the week prior to their campaign. Money can be collected as a second collection (ask your pastor first), or you can hold out buckets or baskets after each Mass.
- Make sure you follow up your campaign by placing a thank-you note in the paper or parish bulletin.
- All funds collected **MUST** be sent to the K of C Culture of Life Foundation of Nebraska by **March 1st** for us to prepare convention reports and arrange for awards.
- First and second place awards are presented at the State Convention to the top two councils that collect and turn in the highest dollar amount, in each division.
- The One Rose, One Life campaign is **not to be used** as a council fundraising activity. Our three bishops, along with other statewide Culture of Life/pro-life organizations, rely heavily on the money that is collected during this campaign. An excellent avenue to raise Culture of Life funds for local councils is the Buck-A-Month program.
- Checks written from council funds should be made out to and mailed to:  
Knights of Columbus, Culture of Life Foundation of Nebraska  
4770 Jean Marie Ln  
Fort Calhoun, NE 68023

**Important Dates:**

- Before **October 15th** – Give # of desired English & Spanish cards and envelopes to your DD.
- Before **March 1st** – Send all funds to  
Knights of Columbus, Culture of Life Foundation of Nebraska  
4770 Jean Marie Ln  
Fort Calhoun, NE 68023

## Buck-A-Month

This is an excellent way to raise Culture of Life funds for your council to support pro-life efforts in your area. The Buck-A-Month program is open to anybody, not just Knights. Ask your friends, relatives, etc., or set up a table after Masses and enroll your parishioners. Please remember to fill out the Buck-A-Month form for all donations. **There is a change on how distribution of these funds will be done. When submitting your Buck-A-Month funds your council will need to designate which Pro Life Organization that they wish their half to go to in support of life. These donations will need to go to a 501 c 3 Pro Life organization and not to an individual.**

## Culture of Life fundraiser

People will join; they just need to be asked! Many councils conduct projects and activities to generate funds to support their local Culture of Life organizations and educational projects. The Buck-A-Month program is a terrific and easy way to raise some of these funds.

- Participating councils are entitled to receive back 50% of the total amount submitted to the pro-life organization(s) of your choice. .
- Buck-A-Month refund checks will be printed to the pro-life organization and sent to the council for presentation opportunities.
- The first place to look for potential Buck-A-Month members is from your council membership roster. Include a Buck-A-Month form with annual membership dues. A sample form is on our Nebraska K of C website <https://nebraskakofc.org/programs/buck-a-month.html>.
- It is recommended that your council conduct its Buck-A-Month drive from January 1st to April 1st.
- When preparing to send contributions to the Culture of Life Foundation, clearly mark them as a Buck-A-Month submission and include your Council number. This will help to ensure that your council is credited properly, and the correct donation check amount is returned to your council. Funds not clearly marked as Buck-A-Month will be assumed as a One Rose, One Life contribution. Forward Buck-A-Month contributions to the Knights of Columbus, Culture of Life Foundation of Nebraska before July 1st.
- The suggested dollar amount for an individual membership is \$12 (Buck-A-Month); however, any amount is very much appreciated.

## Important Dates:

- January – April – Hold Buck-A-Month drive.
- Before **July 1st** – Forward all Buck-A-Month funds received via a check that is **CLEARLY MARKED** as Buck-A-Month with your Council Number to:  
Knights of Columbus, Culture of Life Foundation of Nebraska,  
4770 Jean Marie Ln, Fort Calhoun, NE 68023
- Include the designation form for the Pro-Life Organization that the funds are to be given to
- July – Donation checks will be mailed to the councils.

## Culture of Life Art Contest

This program serves to collect illustrations from our youth, K-6<sup>th</sup> grade, for original artwork that will be depicted on upcoming One Rose, One Life Prayer cards.

## Rules:

- The contest is open to ALL Nebraska students from K-6th grade.
- Design must be on a paper 8-1/2" x 11" (letter size). Design/image may be smaller.
- Picture/drawing must have a Culture of Life message or theme.
- Pencils, crayons, markers, paints, etc. can be used.
- Entries must be received prior to **March 1st**. Winners to be announced at State Convention.

**All entries received become the property of the Knights of Columbus Culture of Life Foundation and will not be returned.**

**Each entry must include the following information:**

- Name
- Age & Grade
- Address & Phone Number
- Council Name & Number
- Grade School or Religious Education School Name (If home schooled, include name of parent)
- Parish Name

Top three (3) entries per Council should be sent to:

**Culture of Life Foundation**  
**4770 Jean Marie Ln**  
**Fort Calhoun, NE 68023**

**Prizes**

Awards are presented at the State Convention. Local awards are at local Council's discretion.

- 1st Place: The school or religious education program from which the winning entry is received will receive a \$500 cash prize. The winning artist will receive a \$200 cash prize.
  - This entry will be displayed on the One Rose, One Life prayer cards.
- 2nd Place: The school or religious education program from which the winning entry is received will receive a \$250 cash prize. The winning artist will receive a \$100 cash prize.
- 3rd Place: The school or religious education program from which the winning entry is received will receive a \$150 cash prize. The winning artist will receive a \$50 cash prize.

**Important Dates**

- Before March 1st – Send up to three (3) artwork submissions to Culture of Life Foundation.

**Pro Life Essay Contest**

***This is a Nebraska Catholic Conference program with only the prize money coming from the Culture of Life Foundation.***

- This contest is open to students from 7th – 11th grade.
- Each grade will have its own winner at the state level for a total of five winners. Each winner will receive \$150 for their winning entry.
- Pro-Life Essay Contest Theme - To Be Announced each year by the Nebraska Catholic Conference.
- Essay submissions are due in late March. **Contact your diocesan Pro-Life office for exact date and submission address.**
- Diocesan contact information changes periodically. **For rules and other general questions about the essay contest, including due date and where to mail essay submissions in your diocese, contact your diocesan Family Life Director.**
- All the winners will be announced at the Bishops' Pro-Life Conference.

**Culture of Life Supreme and State Service Awards Criteria**

Commitment to the Culture of Life cause; from natural birth to natural death.

Culture of Life awards are given at the State Convention for outstanding Culture of Life activities that councils conduct during the previous fraternal year. The awards will be judged on the following:

- Detailed description of the project (e.g., diaper drive, pro-life prayer vigil).
- Man-hours and number of Knights participating.
- Types of fundraisers to support the project or cause.
- The total funds raised for the Culture of Life cause (if applicable).
- Benefit to the recipients of the activity as well as the benefits to fostering a Culture of Life community.

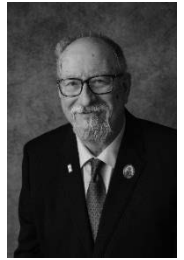
**NOMINATIONS FOR THESE AWARDS ARE DUE TO THE CULTURE OF LIFE DIRECTORS NO LATER THAN  
MARCH 1, 2026.**

### **Additional Suggestions for Culture of Life Activities:**

- Raise money to support the state Culture of Life Ultrasound fund.
- Support the March for Life held each year in conjunction with the January anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision of the U.S. Supreme Court legalizing abortion. Thousands of Culture of Life supporters march for life in Washington, D.C. demanding legislative protection for the unborn. Send a delegation from your council to the March for Life in Washington, D.C. or support youth groups that go to Washington, D.C. For more information visit <http://www.marchforlife.org/> or follow them on Facebook at “The March for Life” and on Twitter @marchforlife.
- Join the Knights of Columbus, “Day of the Unborn Child” observed annually on the Feast of the Annunciation (March 25). Knights, and their families pray and fast to remind us of the importance and dignity of human life from the moment of conception to birth.
- Organize a new council Culture of Life program in your Council and submit your ideas, photos, details, and results to the State Culture of Life Foundation.
- Send letters or personally contact your chaplain, pastor, and members of the clergy offering whatever assistance they request in the fight against abortion.
- Promote and support the Order’s Culture of Life efforts by displaying materials featuring the Culture of Life themes. “Defend Life” (billboard #1938) and a 13 x 20-inch sign (#4238) are available at no cost from the Supreme Council Supply Department — the billboard consists of 12 sheets and measures 21 ½ x 9 ½ feet — allow 4 weeks for delivery. Other Culture of Life materials are described in the Supply Catalog (#1264).
- With the permission of the pastors, conduct a Baby Bottle Campaign in local parishes by supplying baby bottles to parishioners asking them to take the bottles home and fill them with loose change and return them to the parish. Donate the monies collected to Culture of Life efforts in the local area.
- Distribute the Church’s teachings on the sanctity of life as outlined in the Study Guide to Evangelium Vitae (#2914) prepared by the Knights of Columbus for groups and individuals who wish to become more familiar with the Church’s teaching on the respect due human life as presented by Pope John Paul II. (Copies can be obtained for .25 each from the Supply Department).
- Contact Right-to-Life, Birthright, or other pro-life organizations in your area to coordinate programs with those already in existence by volunteering support, manpower, and finances.
- Create a public display of Pro-Life support by placing small white crosses on the lawn of your council home or parish, representing the number of lives lost to abortion locally each year.
- Promote letter-writing campaigns to state legislators expressing your views clearly, firmly, and courteously — be courteous, ask questions and demand answers. For a listing of state senators go to [www.nebraskalegislature.gov](http://www.nebraskalegislature.gov) Click on Senators tab and follow the instructions to email them.
- Raise funds for Birthright and similar Pro-Life organizations which help encourage pregnant women to carry their babies to birth rather than to abort them. Volunteer manpower and services.
- Carry the Pro-Life message to youth through the religious formation programs, high schools, colleges, FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students), etc. by delivering speeches, distributing literature, and sponsoring Pro-Life essay and poster contests.
- Voice your disapproval of programs aired on radio and television stations that do not depict a Catholic view on human dignity. Request that equal time be dedicated to programs displaying Culture of Life values.
- Erect a memorial to children killed through abortion.
- Support homes and facilities for unwed mothers in your area by fund-raising activities, drives to collect diapers and other layette items for newborns, and providing volunteers to help with facility maintenance and upkeep.
- Pray the Rosary to end abortion — a simple, yet effective act that can have enormous impact (a poster urging the recitation of the Rosary as a weapon against abortion (#2073) and a prayer card with a pro-life prayer on the back (#2072) are available at no charge from the Supply Department.
- Ask the pastors of the parishes your council serves if Knights can lead a Rosary for Life before Masses in October — Respect Life Month — and on the weekend closest to January 22, the anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision of the U.S. Supreme Court legalizing abortion.

## **STATE VOCATIONS DIRECTOR – ROBERT WOLF, PSD**

Bob and Chris Wolf have been married for 49 years. They have lived in Scottsbluff since 1987 after they moved from Montana. They have four children, David, Elli, James and Rachael, six grandchildren and two great grandchildren. Bob retired from Dales Tire where he was the manager for 22 years in 2021. Chris retired from Western Nebraska Community College where she ran the Veterans Upward Bound program in 2022.



Bob joined Council 2681 in Scottsbluff in 2000 and joined Assembly 1874 in 2002. Bob has held various positions within the Council and Assembly such as Grand Knight, Faithful Navigator, Treasurer, and served on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Exemplification teams. He accepted his first State position with PSD Don Ferneding as State Council Director in 2006. Bob held various positions over the next nine years with the Membership team, as District Deputy and Convention Chair. In 2015 Bob was appointed Program Director for PSD Tony Hergott and was elected State Warden in 2017. He served as State Warden, Treasurer, and Secretary before being elected as State Deputy which he served as from 2023 to 2025.

### **Vocations**

The Knights of Columbus stand in solidarity with our priests and religious. St John Paul II often said: “There is no Church without the Eucharist and there is no Eucharist without the Priest.” The slogan “Vocations are Everybody’s Business” has been a long-lasting motto of the Knights of Columbus and rightfully so, as the importance of our priests to the Catholic Church is essential to the Church’s continuance and growth.

Founded by a parish priest, Blessed Michael McGivney, the Knights of Columbus has always been a strong defender of the priesthood and religious life and a generous supporter of seminarians and religious in formation. As the largest Catholic fraternal organization in the world, the Order seeks to assist the Church with financial and moral assistance for this purpose.

Considering the needs of the Church in our day, the Order has intensified its promotional programs in recent years. As Knights get more involved in vocations efforts, they find new meaning in their own vocations as Catholic laymen and members of the Order. They also learn more about the importance of teamwork, for the best programs are those planned and carried out by a team.

### **Holy Hour for Vocations:**

Many state and local councils sponsor Holy Hours to pray for vocations. The format varies from parish to parish, but usually includes adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, recitation of the Rosary, Scripture readings, and other prayers. Vocations chairmen are encouraged to contact pastors to see if they would like to conduct Holy Hours in their parishes. The vocations committee should cooperate as requested in helping to organize the event. In particular, the committee can generate publicity to stimulate attendance. If it is not feasible to have a Holy Hour in a parish, perhaps Mass could be celebrated monthly for the intention of more priestly and religious vocations.

### **Vocations Awareness Days:**

An excellent way to heighten vocations awareness is by sponsoring Vocations Awareness Days at Catholic elementary and secondary schools and colleges. Councils have had tremendous success with these events. Usually, they feature visual displays for students in an auditorium, gym, or student union, with people from the diocesan vocations’ office and religious institutes on hand to answer questions. The event can be an all-day affair or can be held during hours of free time. Refreshments offered in a congenial setting can help attract students, especially collegians. Publicity is essential. State and local vocations chairmen are encouraged to contact school officials about holding such events. Diocesan and religious institute vocations directors should be invited to participate, and the local bishop should be informed.

### **Other Activities:**

Many state and local councils and individual Knights promote vocations in other ways. Some members take a young priest out to dinner every month to give him fraternal support. Others pay for vocation- related public advertising such as billboards. Councils and assemblies should be creative and take the initiative in promoting vocations. Naturally, whatever is done in the name of the Order must observe ecclesiastical norms and the policies of the Knights of Columbus.

## **PROGRAM AND ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS**

### **RSVP – Refund Support Vocations Program**

Through this program, council and parish families will raise funds to support seminarians in their area. Though financial support is vitally important, it is not the only aspect of RSVP. Councils are also called to provide their “adopted” seminarian or religious aspirant with moral support and prayers for their success.

### **Featured Program Requirements**

Councils are required to provide financial support of at least \$500 for a minimum of one seminarian. For every \$500 given to an individual, Supreme will refund the council or assembly \$100. The maximum refund a council or assembly can receive is \$400 per individual supported.

**Report activity using *RSVP Refund and Plaque Application (#2863)*.**

## **VOCATIONS ACTIVITIES**

The vocations chairman is a leader. His job is to call others together, inspire them to share prayers, ideas, and plans, and then reach out beyond the group. The model is Jesus’s work with the Apostles. Successful groups need not be large, but they must be committed. Just as priestly and religious vocations are vocations within the Church and at the service of the Church, so the Knights of Columbus vocations program operates within the Church and at her service. Locally, programs should be integrated as much as possible with existing parish and diocesan efforts. For instance, in an ideal situation a Knights of Columbus council will take an active part, or even play a leadership role, in a parish or diocesan vocations program.

### **Structure and Meetings:**

The chairman of the local vocations committee should convene committee meetings at least four times a year. The chaplain should be present if possible. While dates and times are up to the chairman and his committee members, it is important to schedule meetings so that work can begin early in the fraternal year. Topics for meetings include can include the following:

- Prepare and complete implementation of RSVP.
- Vocation awareness days at Catholic elementary, secondary schools, or colleges.
- Sponsorship of poster or essay contests in Catholic elementary and secondary schools.
- Organized prayer to promote vocations, especially Holy Hours; Example a half hour prayer service on Sunday afternoon.
- Effective distribution of Knights of Columbus and Catholic Information Service vocations materials in parishes, Catholic schools, and retreat houses.
- Promoting Knights of Columbus vocations efforts through local media.
- Effective publicity to encourage attendance at vocations events.
- Establishing and maintaining a good working relationship with the local pastor and other priests. In the case of both state and local meetings, keeping accurate minutes will be of great help to future chairmen and committee members.
- Display a picture and bio on a poster or wall in the foyer of church of the seminarians of the diocese. Have extra cards available for parishioners to take home.
- If your parish has a Catholic school, develop 8 x 10 photos of the seminarians in your diocese and have them displayed in the classroom. Encourage the students to communicate with an assigned seminarian.



- Purchase a crucifix and include the vocations prayer card and assign students to take it home for a week or a few days to pray for vocations.
- Have an outdoor banner made to remind the parishioners of special days in the year such as World Day of Prayer for Priests, World Day of Prayer for Vocations, etc.
- Openly express your love for our priests and religious. Use car magnets or stickers; be quick to thank them for their service to us and to God.
- When you observe a young man or woman committed to faith and religion in your parish or community, say to him or her: "Have you ever thought about being a priest or sister?" or "You will be a wonderful priest or sister someday." Do you know that many priests and sisters today say that it was someone who planted the seed of encouragement that sparked the fire that eventually led to their calling to the religious life?

## **SUPPORT FOR DIOCESAN VOCATIONS OFFICES AND PROGRAMS**

Every diocese has a vocations office to promote vocations awareness and recruit candidates for the priesthood and religious life. Bishops appreciate monetary and other assistance to these offices. At the national level, the Supreme Council has contributed to the secretariat for vocations and priestly formation of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops to help support the U.S. bishops' national vocations promotion program. State and local vocations chairmen are encouraged to meet with directors of vocations offices in their dioceses to see how they can help.

### **Vocations Ads:**

The Order's magazine *Columbia*, each month carries an advertisement on its back cover promoting priestly and religious vocations. Reading about a man or woman who has responded to the Lord's call can inspire someone else to do the same. The ads also help spread vocations awareness among Knights of Columbus members and others. State or local councils and assemblies are welcome to copy *Columbia* ads for nonprofit use in parish bulletins and flyers.

For permission to reproduce an ad or ads in a professional advertising campaign (newspapers, billboards, etc.), contact: Director Catholic Information Service, Knights of Columbus Supreme Council, 1 Columbus Plaza, New Haven, CT 06510-3326. If there is a seminarian or member of a religious institute whom you would like to recommend for inclusion in one of these advertisements, write to the Director, as above.

### **Vocations Materials:**

The Knights of Columbus offers vocations posters suitable for use in schools, churches, retreat houses, and other places. One poster is directed to young people, with the theme of "Keep the Faith Alive" (#2959). In addition, the Supreme Council office makes available vocations prayer cards, bookmarks, and booklets on several topics. All vocations materials can be found in Supplies Online, the supply ordering system found in Officers Online.

### **Vocations DVDs:**

Five award-winning video productions are available to councils on one DVD – all ideal for use in councils, parishes, or Catholic schools to promote vocations in the Church:

- *The Vocation to the Priesthood*; This film is ideal for viewing by those contemplating a call to the priesthood.
- *The Vocation to Marriage*; This film presents the teaching of the Church regarding Christian marriage and family. It is ideal for couples preparing for marriage.
- *The Vocation to Religious Life for Women*; This film promotes religious life for women in a contemporary and attractive medium. It is an effective tool for women contemplating a call to religious life.
- *The Vocation to Religious Life for Men*; This film promotes stories from men who are called to follow Christ as religious brothers, offering their lives in service to the church and its people.
- *The Vocation to the Laity*; This film shows how charity, the first principle of the Order, serves as a basis for the lay vocation.

## STATE VOCATIONS AWARDS CRITERIA

The State Council will hand out up to two equal awards for vocations. Criteria to consider when submitting your application are as follows:

- Starting a Vocations Committee and/or engaging the members and parish in an effective way.
- Identify significant accomplishments or achievements made during the year.
- Providing financial support to at least one seminarian through the RSVP program.
  - Assisting more will be taken under consideration.

*A Calling to the sacred Priesthood of Jesus Christ is one of the most beautiful gifts a Catholic man can receive!*

## KEYSTONE PROJECT: RSVP Program

This year's Keystone Project is the RSVP Program. Through this program, councils and parish families will raise funds to support seminarians or religious orders in formation in their areas. For every \$500 given to an individual, the Supreme Council will refund a council or assembly \$100. In addition, the maximum refund a council or assembly can receive is \$400 per individual supported. For the Keystone Project, any amount given to a seminarian postulant or initiate of a religious order is enough to qualify.

Though financial support of our postulants and seminarians is vitally important, it is not the only aspect of the RSVP program. Councils are also called to provide their "adopted" seminarian or religious with moral support and prayers for their success. For additional information visit [www.KofC.org/rsvp](http://www.KofC.org/rsvp).

## MEMBERSHIP

How does membership interact with Evangelization and Faith Formation and Vocations? Every program, every activity is an opportunity to introduce the Knights of Columbus to Catholic families. Not one of the programs or activities outlined in this section should be exclusive to Knights members. In fact, many of these programs should emphasize non-members and their families to help them grow in their faith. As they learn that the Knights of Columbus is first and foremost at Catholic organization and that building up the Church and providing opportunities for Catholics to grow and protect their faith is the reason behind all that the Knights do it will become easier to ask them to join the Knights family is supporting the Church and building up the faith.

### **Membership Prayer**

Heavenly Father, You proclaim to us "Do Not Be Afraid", pour forth your Holy Spirit to inspire me to witness to the abundant life and love that you pour out into the hearts of your faithful every day. Stir in my soul the desire to renew my faith. Deepen my relationship with your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, so that I might truly live the Good News and share it with those around me in a spirit of joy. Open my heart to hear the Gospel and grant me the confidence to proclaim the Good News to others so that they may share in the richness of love that I experience from Our Lord through my life as a Knight of Columbus. Pour out your Spirit, so that as a Knight of Columbus I might be strengthened to go forth and witness to the Gospel in my everyday life through my words and actions.

In moments of hesitation, remind me:

If not me, then who will proclaim the Gospel?

If not now, then when will the Gospel be proclaimed?

If not the truth of the Gospel, then what shall I proclaim?

God, our Father, I pray that through the Holy Spirit I might join my fellow Knights in inviting my brothers in Christ to join us so that together we might hear the call to deepen our faith. May we boldly witness to the saving love of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen.

## **RESOURCES:**

### **Hundredfold by Rhonda Gruenewald:**

An easy-to-follow text for anyone starting or reviving a Vocation Ministry in his or her parish. It is written for the ordinary Catholic who wishes to get involved in promoting vocations.

### **Vocations Ministry:**

On-line resource of several vocation items and products. [www.vocationministry.com](http://www.vocationministry.com)

### **Vianney Vocations:**

An internet supplier of several brochures and articles used to promote vocations in the parish.  
[www.vianneyvocations.com](http://www.vianneyvocations.com).

### **Vocation Inspiration, Inc:**

Provider of digital transmission for your parish. Make announcements, publish news items, play Catholic trivia, and sell advertisements etc. through conveniently located electronic screens installed throughout your church and school.  
<https://vocationinspiration.org/>

### **Knights of Columbus Supply:**

See Supplies on Web page  
Order Supplies | Knights of Columbus ([kofc.org](http://kofc.org)).

### **Omaha Archdiocese Vocations Office:**

Vocations - Archdiocese of Omaha ([archomaha.org](http://archomaha.org))  
Contact Fr Scott Schilmoeller or Kathie Weinfurtner (402) 558-3100

### **Lincoln Diocese Vocations Office:**

Vocations ([lincolndiocese.org](http://lincolndiocese.org))  
Contact Fr. Alec Sasse at (402) 310-1708  
[fr.alec-sasse@huskercatholic.com](mailto:fr.alec-sasse@huskercatholic.com)

Fr. Brian Kane (402)-643-4052  
[sggs@sggs.edu](mailto:sggs@sggs.edu)

### **Grand Island Diocese Vocations Office:**

<http://www.givocations.org/>  
Contact Fr Neal Hock at (308) 234-1539  
[nhock@gidiocese.org](mailto:nhock@gidiocese.org)

Deacon Matthew Irish (308)-532-0942  
[mirish@gidiocese.org](mailto:mirish@gidiocese.org)

## **STATE PUBLICITY CHAIRMAN - CRAIG VAVAK**

Craig Vavak is Publicity Chairman for the State Council. He oversees and produces publicity pieces that State Officers, Directors, and Chairmen deem a priority as well as helping Councils succeed through well planned out publicity efforts.



Craig is a founding member of Council 14077 in Omaha and a Fourth-Degree member of Fr. Flanagan Assembly 3736. He is active in parish and community life. Craig served 6 years on the Board of Bethlehem House Omaha and is also a 4 year past District Deputy for the Knights. He is a member of his Parish Festival Committee and serves on his council's fish fry committee. He also heads the council's annual Thanksgiving Turkey Drive that last year distributed 860 frozen turkeys and fixins to 14 charitable organizations for those in need. As a past Grand Knight, he established several charitable programs and is well aware that promoting these programs to create awareness and providing results afterwards is a major recruiting/visibility tool.

Craig and his wife, Lu, have been married 50 years and have 4 children and 10 grandchildren. He owns a digital printing business that services charitable organizations and faith-based businesses.

### **PUBLICITY FOCUS**

This fraternal year, the focus of our publicity efforts will again be focusing on these areas:

- Visibility and awareness of state-wide Knights of Columbus programs.
- Encouraging and helping councils take advantage of everything that quality publicity efforts, before and after all programs/events, can bring.
- Collecting and sharing program/event ideas from councils throughout the state and publishing these on our state website in the "Around the State" section.

In speaking with many Grand Knights this past year regarding growth and publicity, most all had the same 3 comments:

- 1.) I need to concentrate on finding more potential new members.
- 2.) I need to stay in touch with "non meeting attending" members and get them involved.
- 3.) I don't have time to put a good publicity plan together.

### **GOOD PUBLICITY WILL GET YOUR COUNCIL RESULTS**

It's not rocket science and it doesn't need to take a lot of time to let good publicity work for the success of your council. Take it from one of last year's publicity award winners – Council 2681 GK John Navarro, who recapped his council success using good publicity. "Publicity has given us traction, with current members who are not active and also parishioners, especially the ladies and wives, who say 'you guys are really active and doing a good job' and then get their husbands involved. We take a lot of pictures, we have an active Facebook page, we send out a solid newsletter every month and we utilize the bulletin every week. That's our publicity plan and it must be working because our recruiting efforts have hit 100% of quota the last two years since I started the plan. The traction from our publicity efforts has definitely given us more active members than we ever had before!"

Recently, a Knight who has brought in a lot of recruits over the years made a brilliant statement at a meeting saying "If a guy joins because he constantly hears what you are doing and likes a program or programs you are doing and joins because of that – you will have him for a lifetime."

What we hear from Catholic men and families outside the Knights is that they really don't know much about the Knights except "You're the guys with the swords" or "You're the guys handing out Tootsie Rolls after Mass".

Utilizing a good publicity plan that works for your council, you can let people know what great charitable things you are doing and what the Knights are all about...bringing about a strong probability that someone will hear about a project close to their hearts and be inclined to join your council for the right reasons. That's the positive effect of good publicity!

## **I don't have time to put a good publicity plan together**

Most of us in leadership roles are so busy running our councils and events that we aren't very good at thinking about or wanting to take the extra step of doing publicity. In terms of your council and its success, we need to do a mind shift to see publicity as the first step and one of your best tools for growth and success. Good publicity provides the RIGHT information that your target audiences (Pastor, Council, Parishioners and Community) need to know about your programs/events to support your efforts. Success is in its simplicity: PLAN IT, PRESENT IT, FOLLOW UP.

## **PRE-EVENT PLANNING & COMMUNICATION**

- Utilize a monthly calendar to plot out dates for all events & publicity announcements.
- Meet with your Pastor regularly to go over your upcoming plans/events. If he is involved and excited about your events, that enthusiasm will be shared with parishioners helping the success of your events and the visibility of your council and many activities.

## **PRE & POST EVENT MESSAGING**

A "Pre" notice **AHEAD** of the event contains the following:

- Name of event
- Date/time of the event
- What/who the event is for (charitable organization name)
- Specifics of what you are asking people to do (Show up, participate, donate, etc.)
- How the event will contribute to the welfare of the community and the people it will serve
- Your specific goal for this event

**During the event have someone gather as many photographs as you can. People like to see activity, action and participating faces vs just words you write. Remember a picture paints a thousand words!**

A "Post" notice **AFTER** the event should ABSOLUTELY be written and contain the following:

- A recap of the name of the event
- What/who the event was for
- The people it served and how this event will contribute to their welfare
- Results of the event
- Pictures of the event
- # of Knights/family and even parish members involved in helping
- A closing statement (tagline) about your council you can use for every Knights message sent

With just these simple limited effort steps, you can motivate members to participate more in Council events and give them a sense of responsibility and pride in their actions. Plus recruitment becomes easier with more people familiar with all the charitable things your council is doing.

## **TIPS FOR TAKING GREAT PHOTOS**

As mentioned earlier, photos can be one of the most important components of your event publicity efforts and can be used very effectively in Facebook and social media announcements, on your website, in council brochures and in parish and/or council newsletters and emails. Photos, or "Knights in action" tell a story on their own of the joy, enthusiasm and camaraderie of participation and instantly summarize your council's charitable works.

Here are some quick and easy tips.

- Show activity (the project in progress) rather than just people posed after the fact.
- Show faces/profiles vs pictures showing peoples' backs.
- Close ups of action & faces are much better than shots further away that are hard to identify.
- Be sure the photos are in focus and have sufficient lighting. Dark photo faces are not attractive for getting people's attention.
- If possible, identify by name those in the photo and what is being done in that photo.

## WHAT ARE MY BEST FORMS OF PUBLICITY

There is no one right form over another, choose based on what makes the most sense for the age and savvy of your council members and parishioners. In most cases, bulletin announcements are the easiest and most read. But it is best to utilize more than one form of publicity. It is also understood that not all councils have the manpower to use multiple forms. What is important is to utilize at least one form and utilize it often to stay in front of your target audiences.

Here are a few forms of ongoing publicity but many others are listed on the activity/awards form. All of these also gain you points towards possible publicity awards.

- Parish Bulletin
- Regular Email Updates
- Monthly Council Newsletters
- Council Brochure for Potential Members/Parishioners/Community Groups
- Banners/Signs Including a Recap of the Past Year with Council Accomplishments
- Council Shirts/Jackets/Wearables
- Council Website
- Social Media – Facebook, Twitter, Instagram

## AROUND THE STATE

We have reserved a section on our state website [www.nebraskakofc.org](http://www.nebraskakofc.org) titled “Around the State” to highlight the many projects councils around the state are doing. Throughout the year, we ask you to email us ([pr@kofcne.com](mailto:pr@kofcne.com)) details about your council events and activities you are involved in so that we can share ideas amongst councils and showcase the many good works being done...whether that be helping an injured farmer to do field work, building a ramp or bringing groceries to an elderly parishioner or any charitable program/project your council is doing to ultimately help others. Photos are also requested and will be included along with your event/project details. You will also receive credits towards possible year-end awards and other State Council recognition.

## PUBLICITY AWARDS CRITERIA FOR THE 2025-26 FRATERNAL YEAR

We don't enter our events just to win awards or pat ourselves on the back. We enter them because in winning these awards, it creates pride in our council member base in what they are doing and showcases the many charitable works we are doing for our parishioners and community. Specifically, awards can create a great interest in other catholic gentlemen to join us as Knights because they see these works firsthand through the award. A great form of publicity is to have a state officer hand out the awards in a short presentation at a weekend Mass.

For your council to earn publicity award points, the specific items must be brought to the attention of the Publicity Chairman ([pr@kofcne.com](mailto:pr@kofcne.com)). Send any publicity information for award consideration along with the publicity award form, photos and other information you deem necessary. This can be done at any time throughout the Fraternal year with a final deadline of March 1st in the year the award recipients will be chosen.

## PUBLICITY AWARDS FORM & CATEGORIES

### DUE NO LATER THAN MARCH 1, 2026

- A fillable PDF form is available on our state website: [nebraskakofc.org](http://nebraskakofc.org)
- You must check appropriate item categories and include any requested information/attachments, including complete URL/Web address.
- You may copy and send in a form as often as needed or create your own form/list/email

All items will count toward award points and MUST BE identified/seen by the Publicity Chairman by March 1, 2026. You may submit items not included on the publicity list. To be eligible for points, you must send samples and requested documentation of any of the items listed. Send to:

**Craig Vavak, Publicity Chairman**  
**16629 Olive St., Omaha, NE 68136**  
**[pr@kofcne.com](mailto:pr@kofcne.com) \* 402-690-0639**

Points are used only to help determine Publicity Awards.

### NEW THIS YEAR – 3 DIFFERENT POSSIBLE AWARDS

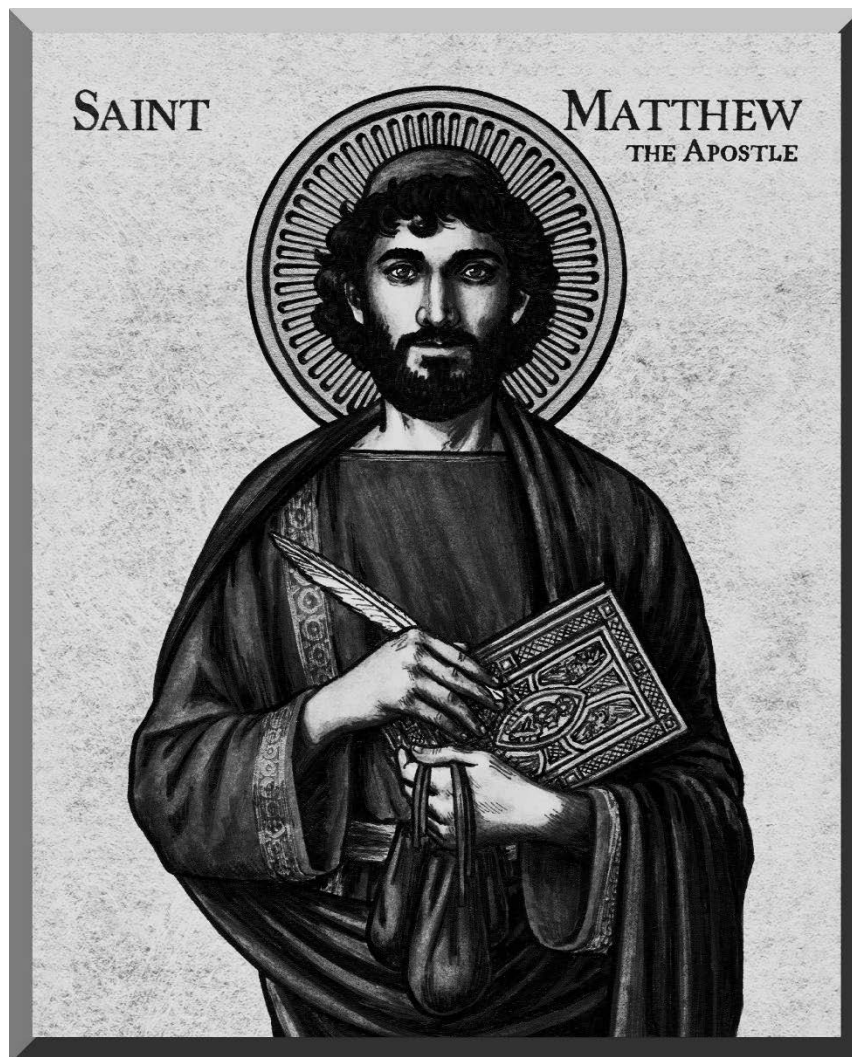
- **1st Place Award** for top overall council in each of the 5 divisions (based on point totals).
- **Award of Excellence** – for councils in their division not awarded 1st place but who go above and beyond in their publicity efforts (chosen by the publicity chairman).
- **Best Council Event for Publicity** – this award is for council events that best showcase the good works of the Knights of Columbus to the public.

### KEYSTONE PROJECT: Council Promotion at State Level

To earn the designation for the keystone project for Publicity, a council needs to promote their council's events and works in at least two of the following three ways:

- Have a council event or project submitted to Publicity Director for consideration in the "Around the State" section of the state website.
- Have a council event promoted on through the State Social Media sites, but sending them to the State Social Media Co-ordinator, Mark Borytsky, Jr. as approved by the State Deputy and Program Director.
- Submit pictures of council projects and events to the State IT / Production staff for use during the State Convention's Awards Banquet.

When submitting your council's information, you must include your council number, name and city. For Social Media and "Around the State" promotion, include the date and time of the event along with details of what the project is supporting. All submissions made by April 1<sup>st</sup> will be considered for the Keystone Project.



## PUBLICITY AWARD FORM (submit one for each category/event)

- ☐ **Article in Columbia Magazine/Diocesan Paper - Print or Digital Version**.....35 points  
Must include a copy, mail/email, or identify story URL/Web link \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ **Article in Local Newspaper/Courier** ..... 15 points  
Must include a copy, mail/email, or identify story URL/Web link \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ **Photos - Accompanying Above Articles or Any Event Photos Submitted to State** ..... 10 points  
Send email or mail in. Must identify each and where and how they were used
- ☐ **TV/Radio/Other Media and Media Website Stories**..... 35 points  
Must send description/summary of story, date/time of airing. Must identify story URL/Web link
- ☐ **Community Calendars** ..... 15/10 points  
Email/send copy of announcement, verification and dates run. Media Calendars 15 points - Parish Calendars 10 points
- ☐ **“Roadside” Billboard/Large Signs** ..... 35 points  
Send photo of sign with Knights of Columbus identified as sponsor, location of sign. Does not include parish Marquees
- ☐ **Event/Other Signs/Banners**..... 25 points  
Any sign/banner used onsite of event, street, yard signs, bumper stickers, identifying Knights of Columbus, yearly success banners
- ☐ **Family of the Month, Council or Supreme**..... 25 points  
Must include documentation and how it was advertised, month/year \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ **Council Newsletter** ..... 20 points  
Must mail or email a copy. Does not include communication and notification emails sent to council members
- ☐ **Council Brochure/Handout**..... 20 points  
Brochures describing the good works your council does or upcoming event flyers. Must mail or email a copy.
- ☐ **Council Website** ..... 30/20 points  
Must be kept current. Council websites - 30 points. Link pages from a parish website - 20 points. Identify URL Here \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ **Council Social Media** ..... 35 points  
Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc., must be monitored and current, identify links here \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ **Council Projects/Activities/Photos Submitted for “Around the State”** ..... 25 points  
Email a copy of details and any photos
- ☐ **Parish Bulletin - Knights of Columbus Announcements** ..... 10 points  
Mail/Email a copy. All points are given per KoC announcement/insert or parish marquee
- ☐ **Council Recruitment or Other use of Video** ..... 25 points  
Email, send DVD or provide link if on website or social media
- ☐ **Council Wearables** ..... 15 points  
Email photos of shirts, polos, jackets, etc. with council number and Knights logo being worn at events
- ☐ **Other - Publicity Not Mentioned Above But Utilized by the Council** ..... 15 points  
Name what it is and send a sample in whatever form sample is available



## **STATE INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES DIRECTORS - STEPHEN & SAMMI LOWERY**

Sammi and Stephen Lowery are members of Blessed Sacrament Council 11001 in Lincoln where Stephen currently serves as Treasurer. He is a Past Grand Knight with Council 13015, Our Lady of Good Counsel at UNL where he also served as a Trustee. Stephen is a member of St. John Paul the Great Assembly 3640 in Lincoln where he serves as Captain. Stephen has served the Nebraska State Council in the past as a Production Specialist, College Director, and part of the membership team. Sammi has been a support system for Stephen through all of this.



Sammi and Stephen were married in November of 2014. Sammi is a science teacher at Lincoln Southeast High School after spending one year at Mickle Middle School. Stephen is a Senior Implementation Analyst at Fiserv in Lincoln where he has worked for the last twelve years. They have three sons, Tommy (who will turn seven in September), Charlie (who will turn four in July), and Ollie (who will turn three in January).

Sammi and Stephen are looking forward to continuing to serve the State as Intellectual Disabilities Directors. They are excited to help the state and all its councils to raise funds for the valuable programs offered in the state of Nebraska for individuals with intellectual disabilities.

### **INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES ACTIVITIES**

#### **KEYSTONE PROJECT: Campaign for People with Intellectual Disabilities** (formerly known as the Tootsie Roll Drive)

The work the Nebraska Knights of Columbus do to assist individuals with intellectual disabilities is funded through the Knights of Columbus Campaign for People with Intellectual Disabilities (formerly identified as the Tootsie Roll Drive). Tootsie Rolls are still the main symbol of this drive, but the Supreme Council wants to emphasize the reason for the fundraising more in the name of the annual drive. While the **Knights of Columbus Campaign for People with Intellectual Disabilities** is a mouthful, it really does communicate clearly who the Knights are raising funds to assist. Here are some frequently asked questions concerning the Knights of Columbus Campaign for the People with Intellectual Disabilities and how the money that is raised is allocated.

#### **Who should receive the money raised?**

State Intellectual Disabilities Directors, **Sammi and Stephen Lowery, 1301 Thunderbird Blvd, Lincoln, NE 68512**, MUST receive 100% of the money collected in the local drive along with the required reporting forms and the local Council's request for its half of the funds. Funds and reports are due by January 31, 2026, for a council to be eligible for awards at the annual State Convention.

#### **How does a Council qualify for Intellectual Disabilities awards at the Nebraska State Convention?**

There are two categories of awards given at the State Convention: percentage gain and most money raised by division. To be eligible for these awards, all money raised, and reports must be received by January 31, 2026. To be considered for the percentage gain awards, councils must have participated in the 2024 and 2025 Knights of Columbus Campaigns for People with Intellectual Disabilities Drive and must have submitted all required forms and money for both drives on time. Awards for most money raised will be based on the 2025 Knights of Columbus Campaign for People with Intellectual Disabilities only and all money and reports must be submitted on time.

#### **Who can the funds go to?**

The following is a partial list of groups who have benefited from the Knights of Columbus Campaign for People with Intellectual Disabilities in the past: Madonna School, Villa Marie, ARC of Nebraska, Special Olympics, Ollie Webb Center, Mosaic, and SMILE. Basically, any non-profit group who works with individuals with intellectual disabilities is eligible to receive money raised through the Knights of Columbus Campaign for People with Intellectual Disabilities. PLEASE NOTE: school districts, educational service units, and individual recipients are not eligible to receive funds. If you have questions regarding eligibility, please contact the Intellectual Disabilities Directors.

### **Where are the forms to order Tootsie Rolls?**

You can find the order form in the packet that Grand Knights received at the at the Leadership Training Seminar in July or the state website [www.nebraskakofc.org](http://www.nebraskakofc.org). You can also email the Intellectual Disabilities Directors Sammi and Stephen Lowery ([sglowery82@gmail.com](mailto:sglowery82@gmail.com)), call them at 402-540-1670, or contact your District Deputy for replacements. PLEASE NOTE: The Tootsie Roll order form was new in 2024 and the new form will need to be submitted when placing your order. Failure to use the new form may result in your council not receiving candy.

### **Where are the reporting forms to use when a Council sends in its money?**

Reporting forms can be found in the packet that Grand Knights received at the Leadership Training Seminar in July or the state website ([www.nebraskakofc.org](http://www.nebraskakofc.org)). You can also email the Intellectual Disabilities Directors Sammi and Stephen Lowery ([sglowery82@gmail.com](mailto:sglowery82@gmail.com)), call them at 402-540-1670, or contact your District Deputy. These forms are due with the money by January 31, 2026.

### **When is this year's drive?**

October 12-18, 2026.

### **Can the local Council change the dates of the Knights of Columbus Campaign for People with Intellectual Disabilities Drive?**

Local councils can change the date to adjust for community needs.

### **When is the money due?**

**ALL FUNDS** collected in the Knights of Columbus Campaign for People with Intellectual Disabilities are due to **Intellectual Disabilities Directors, Sammi and Stephen Lowery, 1301 Thunderbird Blvd, Lincoln, NE 68512, by January 31, 2026.**

Checks should be made out to K of C Intellectual Disabilities Foundation of Nebraska, Inc.

### **Can local councils keep their share of the funds raised?**

No, councils **MUST SEND ALL** the funds collected, along with the required report, to the Intellectual Disabilities Directors. On the reporting form, councils can identify the group(s) to whom they would like to donate their portion (up to 50%) of the funds raised, and then the Intellectual Disabilities Directors will write and distribute the checks accordingly.

### **How can we find groups that serve people with intellectual disabilities?**

Asking families who have children with intellectual disabilities for the names of groups who provide services or activities for the children is a good way to begin the search for a deserving group. The information packet that Grand Knights received at the Leadership Training Seminar in July as well as the state website ([www.nebraskakofc.org](http://www.nebraskakofc.org)) also contain a list of approved groups, addresses, and websites.

### **How do we get more vests and canisters?**

There is a vest order form on the state website ([www.nebraskakofc.org](http://www.nebraskakofc.org)) and in the information packet Grand Knights received at the Leadership Training Seminar. With every 16 cases of Tootsie Rolls ordered, a case of 12 canisters and caps is included if the appropriate box is checked on the Tootsie Roll order form (also included on the state website and in the Leadership Seminar Packet).

**REPORT FORMS AND ALL PROCEEDS COLLECTED ARE DUE  
TO THE INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES DIRECTORS BY JANUARY 31, 2026**

## **McGIVNEY FOUNDATION ADVISOR - DAN WELLS**

Dan is a member of Council 10909 in Elkhorn. His wife's name is Beth. Dan was one of the founding members of the Mary Our Queen Council #11700 and transferred to St. Wenceslaus #10909 in November 2016. He has been a 4th Degree member for over 23 years. He has been involved in parish activities over the years as a school board member and president, as well as a member of the finance committee, an EMHC, and a lector. He is a member of The Serra Club of Omaha and he was also a board member and president of Music in Catholic Schools. Dan and Beth have been married for more than 40 years and have three children and four grandchildren.



Dan is a CPA, CFE and CGMA and works at the accounting firm of Koski Professional Group, P.C. Dan is a member of the Nebraska Society of Certified Public Accountants and has served as a member for many years, was chairman of the board from 2013-2014, and is currently president of the society's foundation. Beth is a freelance writer, artist, and business consultant.

## **McGIVNEY FOUNDATION ADVISOR - DON FERNEDING, PSD, FDM**

Don Ferneding has been a member of the Knights of Columbus since March of 1984 and became a Fourth Degree Knight in 1985. In 1986, Don was assigned the Financial Secretary of Council 7740 in Omaha and became the Grand Knight in 1988 of the Council. A move to central Omaha caused a transfer to Council 11800 where he served the Knights until moving to Beatrice in November of 2007, transferring membership to Council 1723. In 2008 Don started the first Assembly at St. Joseph's parish at the request of Father Major and served as the founding Faithful Navigator of Assembly 3146.



Don has been active on the state level of the Knights of Columbus from 1990 to present serving in several different directorships as well as the Program Director under Past State Deputy Howard Gaffney, also serving as the Warden, Treasurer, Secretary, and the State Deputy from 2006 to 2008. After serving as State Deputy, Don held the position of District Master, serving as the head of Nebraska's 4th Degree for four years. He also held the position of State Membership Director under Past State Deputy Richard Lowery. Don currently serves as District Deputy #8 and is the Co-Director of the Father McGivney Foundation of the State of Nebraska alongside Brother Dan Wells.

Don lives in Beatrice and taught 7th and 8th grade CCD classes for 25 years at both St. Margaret Mary's in Omaha and St. Joseph's Beatrice. He is currently retired from ESU 3 and 5 after 40 years in Information Technology, ending as the Director of Information Technology at ESU #5. In May of 2022 Don married Elizabeth Shotkoski-Jurgens. Don and Elizabeth, together, have three children and six grandchildren.

# **NEBRASKA STATE MCGIVNEY FOUNDATION FUNDING**

## **Your Nebraska State McGivney Foundation is Growing**

The McGivney Foundations started in 2001 with just under \$500.00. Today, due in a large part to the charitable donations of our brother Knights, it has grown to over \$600,000.00. Our goal of reaching \$1,000,000.00 by 2026 is well within our reach.

## **What is the McGivney Foundation's main goal?**

When Father McGivney started the Knights of Columbus, his main goal was to create a fund to be used to help families in financial need. Father McGivney wished to help families with devastating financial needs such as the death of father or mother, families with medical issues, or families experiencing a devastating financial crisis. Today, we have that same goal. We wish to help families and brother Knights that have suffered from house fires, loss of life from accidents, or families struggling with large medical bills.

## **How does your donation help us meet our 1-million-dollar goal?**

Seventy-five percent of all donations will be held in perpetuity and only used to grow the foundation, the remaining 25% will be used to pay for overhead expenses such as audit fees, fund management and help with donations to brother Knights. Donors also have the option of having 100% of their donations to be held in perpetuity and only used to grow the foundation.

## **How do we fund the McGivney donations?**

The amount of dollars used to fund donations is determined by the following:

- Up to 25% of each donation (unless stated otherwise by the donor) is placed in an expendable account. These dollars are used to fund the expenses of the foundation as well as fund, in part, the donations to our brothers in need.
- The interest earned annually is used to fund the majority of the foundation's requests for assistance.
- Optionally, the Board of Directors can request that up to 50% of the annual market growth of the Foundation to be placed into the expendable account and used only for donations back to brother Knights.

## **How can you make a difference?**

- A one-time financial gift of any amount is always appreciated.
- A monthly recurring gift can be set up of any size.
- A life insurance plan through the Knights of Columbus insurance programs can be established.
- A donation of grain can be given.
- A donation of \$100.00 or more will qualify you as a sustaining member.
- Donate through your Council or Assembly.
  - Any Council or Assembly donating \$250.00 annually will become a Council/Assembly Sustaining member.

## **Giving Priorities**

Passed April 2017 at the annual State Convention Meeting

1. Brother Knights and their immediate family members in need.
2. Brother Knights and their extended families in need (Parents, Siblings, Grandparents, Aunts, Uncles etc.).
3. Individuals within your communities with emergency needs.
4. Catholic organizations with emergency needs.
5. Community organizations with emergency needs.

**Giving Donations usually range between 0 and \$3,000.00 for each request.**

## **STATE FS COORDINATOR CHAIRMAN – JOSEPH KAUP**

Joseph Kaup oversees the State's Financial Secretaries and Faithful Comptrollers by providing quality training, resources, and expertise ensuring each is fully capable of supporting his Council or Assembly. Joseph became a member of the Knights of Columbus on June 14, 2001. Joseph was in the seminary from 2001 to 2005. Upon leaving the seminary, Joseph became a Fourth Degree Knight on April 16, 2005. In 2010, Joseph moved from North Carolina to Nebraska. Since then, Joseph has held several officer positions including Grand Knight, Faithful Captain, and Faithful Navigator. Joseph was an insurance agent with the Knights for 3 years. Joseph is currently the Financial Secretary for his council. Joseph and Tami have been married since 2012. They have five children, (one daughter, four sons, including one in heaven), and five wonderful grandchildren. Joseph and Tami own a permanent holiday lighting company. They are active members of St. Mary's parish in Norfolk.



### **Financial Secretaries' Information**

The Financial Secretary's (& Faithful Comptroller's) duties are numerous and especially important to the Council/Assembly. Below is information concerning the most important tools, tasks, and reminders.

### **Supreme Videos:**

There are several training videos found on the Supreme Website that explain numerous FS tasks. Here is a link to the Fraternal Video Library: <https://www.kofc.org/en/videos/fraternal-training-library.html>

### **Fraternal Leader Advisory:**

The Fraternal Leader Advisory is a Supreme document produced monthly that highlights current K of C initiatives. Supreme sends the advisory to all state deputies, state and council officers and directors, and district deputies to help them keep current on the Order's objectives. There is a specific section for financial secretaries and provides guidance, policy, and training opportunities. The archive and how to subscribe is located at this link: <https://www.kofc.org/en/news-room/fraternal-leader-advisory/index.html>

### **"Leadership Resources":**

The basic duties of an FS and FC are explained in the "Leadership Resources" (#5093). This is your "go to" document. Two copies are mailed to the FS at the beginning of the fraternal year. Once the version is produced for 2025, a PDF version can be found in Officer Resources and can be downloaded directly to your computer. Once downloaded get copies to your DGK, Program Director and Trustees where valuable information can be found. This document should be your first point of reference in resolving a problem. If you cannot find the answer, call one of the FS Co-Coordinator Chairmen. For specific information about a particular Knight's record in your Member Management, it may be necessary to contact the Supreme Office.

### **NE State Website Financial Secretary Resources:**

Training and update information is posted on the website for FSs and FCs. This location updates current information and is a valuable resource. Here is the link: <https://nebraskakofc.org/resources/financial-secretary-resources.html>

### **Officers Online:**

Supreme has a Training Mode for the FS/FC in Member Management. The "Training" mode allows you to use the distinct functions of MM/MB without impacting the database or current reports on file. You can also print reports to see what the results will display i.e., vouchers. The word TRAINING will be printed over the printed product on the reports as well as appearing in the upper right-hand corner of the screen until you return to live mode.

**New Financial Secretaries' Training:**

Financial Secretaries and Faithful Comptrollers are appointed at any time during the year. Our commitment to new FSs/FCs is to get them up to speed as quickly as possible. Focused training is provided during the GK/FS training meeting in July and during a workshop at the State Convention. New FSs/FCs should attend one of these sessions if possible. Additionally, the FS Coordinator Co-Chairmen would be happy to provide one-on-one training where practical anytime. Notify one of the FS Coordinators when you are in place.

**Submit Reports on Time:**

Be sure to submit the required reports on time. Refer to the Executive Secretary section of the Program Book, the State Council website, <https://nebraskakofc.org/> and Supreme Council website, [www.kofc.org](http://www.kofc.org). Supreme reports and forms due are also posted on your Council Statement and these statements are posted each month on your council Reports Online page. Some of the most important items due from the FS and FC are the Semiannual Audit Report due February 15 and August 15, the Survey of Fraternal Activity due January 31, and the payment of Supreme and State Assessments. If you submit a report online that does not contain a block for the email address for the Executive Secretary, District Deputy, and yourself, download a copy and forward it as an attachment by email to them, i.e., Report of Officers (185), Service Program Personnel (365).

**Online Report/Member Management:**

The Grand Knight/Faithful Navigator, Financial Secretary/Faithful Comptroller, Advocate/Faithful Pilot have access to the Officers Online section of the Order's website. The Reports Online section of Officers Online provides the ability to view council/assembly records such as the roster, membership statistics, and support materials. The GK/FN and FS/FC have access to Member Management, but only the FS/FC has access to Member Billing. The GK/FN and Advocate/Faithful Pilot have access to the Orders Bylaws online. Once the Supreme Council office records the new officers in its database, an Invitation Code is generated for each eligible officer. Additional information is contained in the Leadership Resources document (#5093).

On the Supreme Online Report, you will find rosters for your council/assembly in PDF and EXCEL, Publications, Look Ahead for reports due, and Support Materials, all of which can be printed or saved to your computer.

**Service Program Personnel Report (365):**

As this document is being prepared, ensure that all member email addresses are accurate. Praesidium Academy, the Order's Safe Environment partner, will use these email addresses to send email notifications to the program directors and chairs who are required to complete safe environment training and to provide authorization for a background check. Directors and chairs should look for email notifications from Praesidium Academy in their inbox or spam folder. These will provide assigned username and password to complete the required training and the link necessary to provide background check authorization. The Knights of Columbus covers all costs associated with these requirements. **Please work with your Grand Knight and the State Advocate to ensure your Council is compliant with the Youth Protection Training.**

## **STATE ATHLETICS/SPECIAL EVENTS CHAIRMAN - JOE BOBER**

As the Athletics Chairman for the Nebraska State Council, Joe directs state athletics and reports directly to the State Program Director. Joe is an Honorary life member of Council 3019, where his father and grandfather were charter members, and has served in every office. He is a member of Assembly 1854 and has served on the State Council as the Youth Director, District Deputy for District # 5, and a Supreme Delegate. Joe has been married to Cindy, the love of his life, for 53 years. They have two children, a son Chris (Jen) a member of 3019, a daughter Wendy (Sol), and six grandchildren ages 8 years to 23 years of age. He retired from Genuine Parts Co. after 46 years. Joe is a lifelong member of St. Stanislaus Church in Omaha.



### **ATHLETICS ACTIVITIES**

I will be working to ensure the success of our state athletics events. Currently, this consists of two annual events: golf tournament and bowling tournament. I hope to continue the past success and find improvements on these wonderful events. These events are sanctioned by the State Knights of Columbus. I am seeking additional events that would appeal to our membership. If you, or your council, has an idea for an event that the State could promote, contact me.

Most of our State athletic events take place on a weekend. Traveling to and participating in these events will interfere with attendees Mass attendance. List all Mass times of Catholic churches in the vicinity of the event in any advertisements, programs, or announcements.

## **STATE EVENT COORDINATOR CO-CHAIRMAN - PAT RUPP**

Pat joined the Knights in 1988 as the founding Financial Secretary of Council 9918 (St. Joan of Arc in Omaha). In 1996, he transferred to Council 10160 (St. Stephen the Martyr in Omaha) where he served as Grand Knight, Deputy Grand Knight, and Trustee. In 2006, Pat became the founding Grand Knight of Council 14077 (St. Charles Borromeo in Gretna) where he currently serves as Chancellor.



In 1990, Pat joined the 4th Degree with Assembly 594 (Fr. Michael P. Dowling) and in 1998, he became the founding Faithful Comptroller of Assembly 2541 (Mother Teresa in Gretna). In 2017, St. Stephen the Martyr and St. Charles Borromeo councils formed Assembly 3736 (Father Flanagan in Gretna). For the State Council, he served as State Membership Director for PSD the late John Melena from 2004 to 2006 and as District Deputy from 2009 to 2013. He has been Convention Co-Chair since July of 2017.

Pat married Cindy in 1986 and has two children, Stephanie and Thomas. Stephanie is the Director of Nursing Skills Lab and Clinical Liaison for the College of St. Mary in Omaha. Thomas works for Papillion Sanitation and is a First-Degree Knight in Council 14077. Cindy and Pat are active in their home parish, St. Charles Borromeo in Gretna.

## **STATE EVENT COORDINATOR CO-CHAIRMAN - JESSE HINES**

Jesse Hines joined the Knights of Columbus in February of 2018 in Lincoln. In a short 4 months he went from 1<sup>st</sup> degree to 4<sup>th</sup> degree. That May he was elected Deputy Grand Knight and Program Director. As DKG and Program Director, he helped the council achieve ICC Gold and best council in the state. After those two years he progressed to Grand Knight of the council. In those two years he achieved ICC Gold and in his second year achieved best council in the state. Jesse is currently District Deputy 11, and was selected as DD of the year for 2022-2023. In 2024 Jesse was selected to join the Blessed Michael McGivney Leader Fellowship supreme sponsored leadership training program.



Jesse has been married to his amazing wife, Jessica, since 2016. She has played an integral role in his involvement in the Knights and is his number one supporter. Jesse enjoys fishing on his boat, spending time with family, and watching football, baseball and hockey. Jesse and Jessica have three rescue dogs that keep them busy. Jesse is an Acolyte at St Mary's in Aurora and Jessica is a reader. Jesse joined the Catholic church in 2016 and has enjoyed his journey growing in the Catholic faith. The Knights of Columbus has been a major part of that spiritual growth.

## **STATE MEETING INFORMATION**

The State Event Coordinator Co-Chairs are charged with the duties of gathering and compiling reservations and securing rooms (if applicable) and meals for the three State meetings held each year. To help in this, we have chosen to use Eventbrite, an event management and ticketing website.

**Those meetings are:**

- **Grand Knight, Financial Secretary, and District Deputy Training Seminar**
  - Held in July
  - For Council, District, and State Leadership
  - All Council Members are welcome to attend
- **Mid-Year Meeting**
  - Held in December
  - For District Deputies
- **State Convention**
  - Held In April
  - Open to all members of the Knights of Columbus and their families

The State Event Coordinators keep track of 200 - 450 meal tickets and 150 - 300 room assignments for the Knights, their wives, families, and State guests.

Below are some simple ideas that would greatly help us to do our job better and ensure that you have a wonderful time at all our meetings:

- **Read the instructions thoroughly.**
  - Pay special attention to the date registrations need to be returned. The hotels have strict timetables for cutoff dates, and we want to make sure that you have a room.
  - Eventbrite will require a Password AND a Promo Code that is sent out in the Registration Packets and Instructions.
    - If you do not have these, you will not be able to register properly.
- **Click the apply button after you enter the Promo Code**
  - If you don't click the blue apply button, you will not gain access to the available tickets.
- **Registration Packets are typically sent to the State Leadership and to the Financial Secretaries for Councils.**
  - If you do not see options for registering for meals (or rooms if applicable to your position) that means you are missing a Promo Code.
- **You may contact the State Event Coordinators to get that Promo Code if needed.**
- **Submit questions directly to the State Event Coordinator Co-Chairmen.**
  - We are handling the Eventbrite Registration for all three meetings so the reservations/inquires come to us and not to Ray Guggenberger.
    - Ray has enough to do trying to answer numerous questions without having to forward reservations and questions to us as well.



- **Please answer all the questions that Eventbrite asks. We have put these questions there for a reason.**
  - Please make sure that you provide your:
    - Name
    - Job Title
    - There is an option for Council Officer Member
    - District Deputies will be prompted to provide their District Number
    - Lady's name and email for the Ladies program
    - If you have any dietary restrictions
    - If you will need a highchair
    - Council Number (if prompted to do so)
- **Answer all questions about food related allergies**
- **Answer questions about room preferences (if applicable to your position)**
- **If you are ordering meals for yourself and other members of your family (spouse and/or children), make sure that you include yourself in the number of meals you request.**
- **There is a separate Promo Code that will need to be used to order meals that are not for your position.**
  - This information is provided in the Registration Packets and Instructions.
  - You may also contact the State Event Coordinators if you need assistance.
- **If you do not plan to attend the meeting, please complete the Eventbrite registration process anyway. There is an option for "I am unable to attend".**
  - This would save us having to call you to see if you just forgot.
- **Councils should do their best to send their reservations in together as a Council.**
  - That way they do not get mixed up and the tickets are given to someone else.
- **Have a good time at the meetings.**
  - It is a time to learn, to visit with old friends, and to make new ones. We are all family here, blessed to be Knights and to belong to the greatest organization in the world.

The State Event Coordinator Co-Chairmen can be reached using their individual email address, but you can also email them at [nekcmeetings@gmail.com](mailto:nekcmeetings@gmail.com). This email address is the best (and fastest) way to get information about registering for the meetings and answers to any questions or problems you may have in the registration process.



## **COURIER EDITOR - BETH WELLS**

As a long-time writer and marketing, public relations and communications specialist, Beth jumped in to help the Nebraska Knights in 2021. She is responsible for overseeing and producing three issues of the Nebraska Knights Courier annually, as well as several other projects.

She has been involved with the Nebraska Knights of Columbus at the state level for many years. Her husband Dan is an advisor for the Nebraska Council McGivney Foundation. She looks forward to receiving information about key projects and working with the various program directors, councils and assemblies to share the good work being done by Nebraska Knights.



## **STATE IT & PRODUCTION CHAIRMAN - FRANK PRIBYL**

Frank joined Wichita Kansas Council #3114 in 2012. He stayed active with the Knights as his career took him to York, NE and now Beatrice, NE. He has helped with all sorts of events, and most recently served as Grand Knight of the Beatrice council. He joined the state team in this support role in 2022. He currently works for the Toro company as a Material Supply Chain Engineer.

Frank has been married to his lovely wife Staci for 15 years, and has three young children – Anna, Claire, and Harrison. They often help at Knights events such as roadside cleanup, fish fries, and pancake breakfasts. They credit their Catholic education at St. Joseph School and the influence of the Knights for building their strong volunteering spirit.



## **STATE IT & PRODUCTION CHAIRMAN – ANDREW OSTDIEK**

Andrew joined St. Stephen council 1906 in Lawrence, NE as a senior in high school. He is an active member of Council 8010, Msgr. Huber Campo, in Aurora where he is serving as the Grand Knight after previously holding the Financial Secretary and Deputy Grand Knight offices. At St Mary's, Andrew is an Acolyte and has served two terms on the Parish Council, recently concluding his last term as President in 2023. Andrew joined the state team in this support role in early 2024.

Andrew has been married to Rene' for 28 years, and they have 3 grown children – Abigail, Scott, and Jacob. They are active with the Knights and St Mary's, helping with parish and council social events, sponsoring and coordinating the India Mission project, and are presently serving as GodTeen sponsors for the sophomore class. Andrew currently is a Senior Business Analyst for the JF Shea Companies.



## **STATE SOCIAL MEDIA / IT SUPPORT – MARK BORYTSKY, JR.**

My name is Mark Borytsky, Jr. I have been a Brother Knight for 18 years and a Sir Knight for 17 years. I joined the Knights of Columbus in 2007 at the age of seventeen and half years old. My home Council is Columbian 6192 where I have held the positions of Inside Guard and Warden. I am currently serving as our Chancellor. I am a member of Cardinal Spellman Assembly 3486 where I served as Inner Sentinel and my current position is Color Corp Deputy Commander.

I am a proud Eagle Scout. I am employed as a diesel technician for a school bus company and love making sure the buses are safe for the children that ride them. I am honored to serve as the State's Social Media Coordinator and strive to make connections across the state.

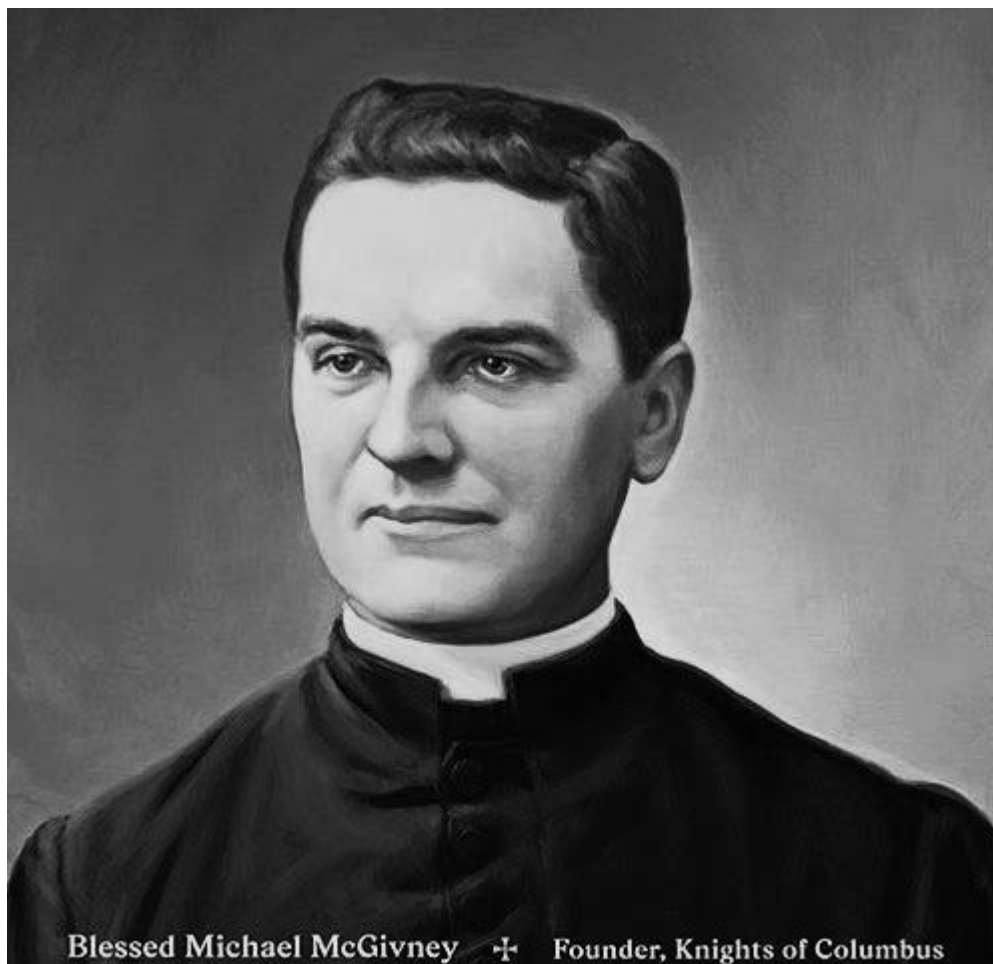


## **STATE IT & PRODUCTION**

The State IT/Production staff is ready to support the State Officers and Directors, providing the necessary manpower and expertise to create interesting and informative meeting presentations. This is our main focus, but we are also willing to help and advise councils with technical questions and discussions of technical options/problems that your council may encounter. This could include help with streaming council meetings, questions concerning council websites, or help with creating a social media presence for your council.

One of the more interesting things that the Production Staff does is to gather photos from councils that are used during our State Convention. Photos can be submitted to the IT/Production staff by email or by sharing a One Drive or Google Docs folder so that your council's activities can be shared with the entire state. Photos should be submitted to the Production Staff at least two weeks prior to the State Convention.

The Production Staff also helps to manage the State Council website. While we cannot provide a hosting option for your council's website, we may be able to provide some guidance or help if you are struggling with your website options. Also, if you have suggestions, questions, or problems with the state website, please contact the Production Staff. We will see what we can do to improve the website and meet the needs of our State Officers, Directors and also every council in the state.



## **DISTRICT MASTER - MARK BORYTSKY, PSD**

I am honored to be your District Master of Nebraska.

I joined the Knights of Columbus in 1986 with Council #6192 in Bellevue. I eventually became the Grand Knight of the council, earning Star Council. I also served as District Deputy #5, serving the largest district in the state at the time, with five wonderful councils. Working together, we received the Star District Award. Over the years I had the honor of many positions at the state level then being elected as state officer as a State Warden. My path took me, with the support of our state council and the trust of our state delegates, to becoming the 56th State Deputy of Nebraska.



My 4th Degree journey started in 1989, becoming a member of the Cardinal Francis Spellman Assembly #3486 in Bellevue, ultimately becoming the 12<sup>th</sup> District Master of Nebraska. Over the years I have learned, experienced, and now I can better support our assemblies and councils across the state.

For our Sir Knights, we are patriotic men who are shining examples of American citizens that stand in support of their country and humanity. You will find Sir Knights at Veteran Administration hospitals serving food to our veterans, performing flag retirement ceremonies, serving as honor guards at cemeteries on Memorial Day and Veterans Day, carrying our Nation, Papal, State, and Order flags at the front of parades, standing guard at wakes, funerals and so many other patriotic events/activities in service to our country, and its citizens.

My mission over the next fraternal year is to communicate with our Former District Masters and Diocesan Marshall's working together with the many Sir Knights across Nebraska. We are motivated to see what we can accomplish working with our assemblies to better our great works for our church, community, councils, religious, and veterans.

If you haven't taken the highest degree in the Knights of Columbus, I invite you my brother Knight, to join our ranks and be knighted with the sword of the Fourth Degree and become a Sir Knight!

God Bless,

Mark Borytsky, PSD  
Nebraska District Master

Sir Knights, to keep our assemblies in good standing for the Fraternal Year, you will find below forms, reports, applications, worksheet submissions and As Needed reports and their due dates. You can connect to our Supreme website [www.kofc.org](http://www.kofc.org) and enter Assembly Forms. Click the tab titled Assembly Forms and the information below will be displayed. You can also visit our wonderful website at [www.nebraskakofc.org](http://www.nebraskakofc.org) for information. Please contact me if you have any concerns or issues with filing your reports.

## ASSEMBLY FORMS

Please submit an online form whenever available. This is the preferred method of submitting forms. When an online form is not available, print out a copy of the form before submission and keep it for your records. Some of the forms go to different departments within the Supreme Council. Once the form is completed, please verify the email address on the form before sending.

Form Number	Assembly Form Name	PDF	Online (Preferred Method)	Due Date
#186	Report of Officers Chosen for the Term	PDF	Online (Preferred Method)	7/1
#1315	Annual Assembly Audit Report	PDF	N/A	8/1
#1728 Assembly	Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity	PDF	Online (Preferred Method)	1/31
#TBP-1	To Be a Patriot Award Entry Form	PDF	N/A	5/31
#2321	Civic Award Application	PDF	N/A	6/30
#2863A	RSVP Refund and Plaque Application for Assemblies	PDF	N/A	6/30
#1291	Fourth Degree Exemplification Report	PDF	N/A	As Needed
1728A	Survey of Fraternal Activity Individual Member Worksheet	PDF	N/A	As Needed

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