

Nebraska State Council Knights of Columbus



2026 - 2027

STATE PROGRAMS BOOK

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

Table of Contents

State Deputy – Michael Schaeffer	1
State Chaplain - Fr. William Cremers	2
Supreme Chaplain’s Monthly Challenge	2
Evangelization & Faith Formation Director – Rich Lowery, PSD, FDM	3
COR Mission	3
Cor Vision	3
State Advocate – James Korth	5
Legal Information	5
Importance of Filing a Form 990	5
Liability Insurance for Council Activities	5
Home or Holding Companies	6
Resolutions	6
State Executive Secretary – Mike Vaughn	6
Helpful Hints from our State Executive Secretary	6
Supreme & State Reports	8
Supreme Reports	8
Due Dates	8
Where to Find Reports	9
How to Fill out Reports	10
State Reports	11
Due Dates	11
Where to Find Reports	11
How to Fill out Reports	12
State Program Director – Kevin Ostdiek	13
State Assistant Program Director – Jesse Hines	13
Safe Environment Program	14
State Awards	15
Divisions	16
Awards Breakdown	18
Awards Criteria	19
ICC – Inter-Council Competition	20
Purpose & Explanation	20
2025-2026 ICC Champions	20
ICC Awards Program Checklist	21
Forms & Reports	22
Sample Form	24
Faith In Action	25
Categories and Programs	25
Resources	26
Forms	26
Faith Programs	27
Family Programs	29
Community Programs	32

Life Programs -----	34
State Programs -----	37
Faith Directors & Programs -----	37
Vocations Director & Programs -----	39
Family Directors & Programs -----	39
Community Director & Programs -----	48
Youth Director & Programs -----	51
Life Directors & Programs -----	53
Publicity Director & Programs -----	60
Foundations -----	65
Knights of Columbus Intellectual Disabilities Foundation of Nebraska -----	65
McGivney Foundation -----	67
Financial Secretaries -----	69
Athletics/Special Events -----	70
Meetings and Events -----	71
Courier -----	73
IT & Production -----	74
Social Media & IT Support -----	74
District Master – Mark Borytsky, PSD -----	75
Important Assembly Information -----	76
Insurance Agents -----	77
Help Desk -----	78



STATE DEPUTY – MIKE SCHAEFFER

Meet the Schaeffer's... Shelly and I have been blessed to share 35 years of marriage. We have two children - our son Garrett and our daughter Taylor (married to Jake), who have given us two amazing grandchildren – granddaughter Averi and grandson Brooks. 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 we returned 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 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 also served as State Treasurer and State Secretary before being elected State Deputy at the 2025 State Convention.

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 through his Gospel, ultimately bringing people closer to the sacred heart of Jesus.

My top priorities for this Fraternal Year have not changed:

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

Building Brotherhood: We will grow our Order by extending a "**Culture of Invitation**" to every Catholic man and his family and partnering with our outstanding General Agents/Field Agents to ensure every Knight understands Blessed Michael McGivney's mission of protecting the Family and their Faith. **Remember, "Early is Easy"**.

Expanding Our Charitable Works: We will strengthen our parishes, local communities, and those most in need through increased acts of charity, service and kindness.

As we begin year two, I humbly ask for your continued prayers and support. 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 everything we do. Viva Cristo Rey!

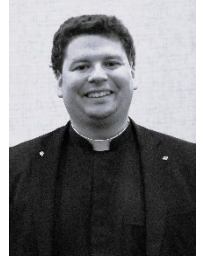
St. Matthew the Evangelist, Pray for Us!

Vivat Jesus,

Michael "Schaef" 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) 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 rwlowerykc@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.

True friendship, based on solid foundations, is the desire in the heart of every man. Beginning with our Lord Jesus Christ and working its way through every other relationship, true friendship, true trust, is a precious and cherished thing. Every friendship takes work. Every friendship has its ups and downs. But true friendship will overcome these obstacles and, in most cases, grow stronger over time.

How can we, the Knights of Columbus, help every Christian man to build and sustain these relationships? COR. The philosophy built into the very foundation and fabric of the Order by Blessed Michael McGivney. Fellowship, prayer, and faith formation form the bedrock of friendship, with our Lord and with our brothers. Each of these elements is a building block of a brotherly bond that grows stronger the more they are used and the more they are practiced.

Men, by nature, take responsibility very seriously, and in many cases very quietly. Problems, concerns, worries are all part of daily life, but many times men will hide these under a stoic face rather than reach out for help and comfort. Evangelization and Faith Formation, and specifically COR, is an opportunity to help every man build relationships of trust and mutual support that can be called upon in times of distress and trouble as well as in times of joy and thanksgiving.

God did not intend man to do things alone. In Genesis, God created a “suitable” partner for man to share life with. The Knights of Columbus is a brotherhood built on faith that allows man to share and support others.

The Knights 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 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.

Today, the Knights of Columbus continue to emphasize the foundations that Fr. McGivney built into the Order. Christ Centered Fellowship, a 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 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 not simply saying a rosary or adding an additional prayer to the end of a meeting, although neither of these is bad. 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. 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 11th 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 is in his second year as Executive Secretary after serving 8 years as the State's Financial Secretary Coordinator Chairman. Mike was the FS Coordinator for the past 8 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 CUF 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, four 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 in various positions in military chapels as well as his home parish.



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 you file 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. **Nice to Know:** Anytime a change takes place, this form needs to be updated. Accomplishing in Member Management makes it easy. Want to learn more? Go to this link: <https://site-842560.bcvportal.com/detail/videos/forms/video/6191938577001/forms-185-186-365-online-submission-training?autoStart=true>.

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 four required positions, Grand Knight, Program Director, Family Director, and Community Director. These positions must be filled and are needed to comply with the Youth Protection Program. If filing this report online (**again 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 Mike.

Fraternal Leadership Advisory: New Grand Knights and Financial Secretaries need to sign up for the Fraternal Leadership Advisory. The monthly update provides vital information helpful for running a successful council. Go to this link to subscribe: <https://www.kofc.org/en/news-room/fraternal-leader-advisory/index.html>.

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 time. Of course, the best way to submit new members, transfers, and readmits, is to use the Candidates tab in Officers On-line

ANNUAL REPORT OF AUDIT FORM 1295: This report ensures compliance with IRS requirements for our non-profit tax status. Additionally accurate and on time submissions ensure your Council's FS and Treasurer retain the bonds. Bonds are provided by Supreme at no cost to your council. See the #11619 Fraternal Excellence Guide for detailed instructions on how to fill out the form.

STATE DIRECTORY: The executive secretary is also responsible for preparing and keeping the state directory up to date. 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. Mike is responsible for the directory. Submit updates/changes to Mike at kofcmvaughn@gmail.com. We also provide a link for annual updates after elections. You simply click the link and provide updated information.

To stay out of trouble with the Executive Secretary, reference the card below often!

	GK/FS Quick Reference Card Must Do Forms	
June 15: Provide Directory Update/keep current throughout the year		
June 30: Next Year Officers Form 185 (use Member Management)		
June 30: Next Year Service Personnel Report Form 365 (use MM)		
Aug 15: Annual Audit Form 1295 due		
Jan 31: Fraternal Activity Form 1728 due (use online form)		
Jan 31: Special Olympic Form 10784 due (use online form)		
Sep 1/Mar 1: State and Supreme Per Capita due		
Ensure Safe Environment Training for GK, Pro Dir, Fam Dir & Comm Dir (online)		
Highly Encouraged		
Attend Regional Meetings, Leadership Training and State Convention (Council rep acceptable)		
Complete ICC Reports and Awards as required (State Website)		

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 via the link provided on our website and in the daily prayer intentions and may also be sent direct to Prayer Chain Coordinator, Ray Guggenberger at rguggenberger@cox.net. This is the link: <https://nebraskakofc.org/resources/prayer-chain-requests/prayer-chain-requests.html>. 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. **This will prevent you from being unsubscribed from Constant Contact.** 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.

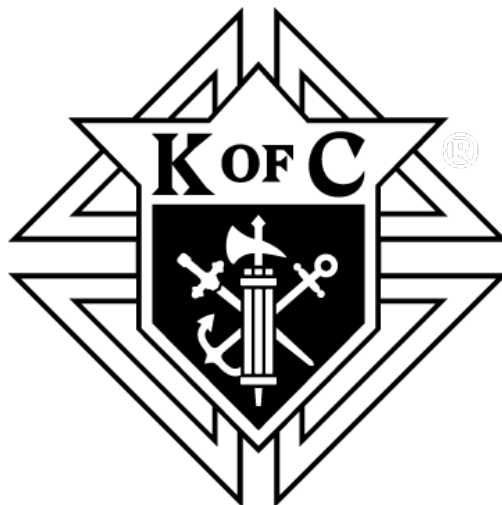
STATE DIRECTORY: The executive secretary is also responsible for preparing and keeping up to date the state directory. The state directory is a crucial document in helping the state officers ensure that local councils are successful. Periodic updates are forwarded to help keep the directory current.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

SUPREME REPORT DUE DATES

185	Report of Officers	June 30	**
365	Service Program Personnel Report	June 30	**
1295	Semi-Annual Audit Report (Period End June 30)	August 15	
	Supreme Per Capita Assessment	September 1	
1728	Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity	January 31	*
10784	Partnership Profile Report-Special Olympics	January 31	
	(This is now on the Faith in Action Report Form Only)		
	Supreme Per Capita Assessment	March 1	
2863	RSVP Refund and Plaque Application	June 30	
10057	Food for Families Refund Application	June 30	
SP-7	Columbian Award Application	June 30	*
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	

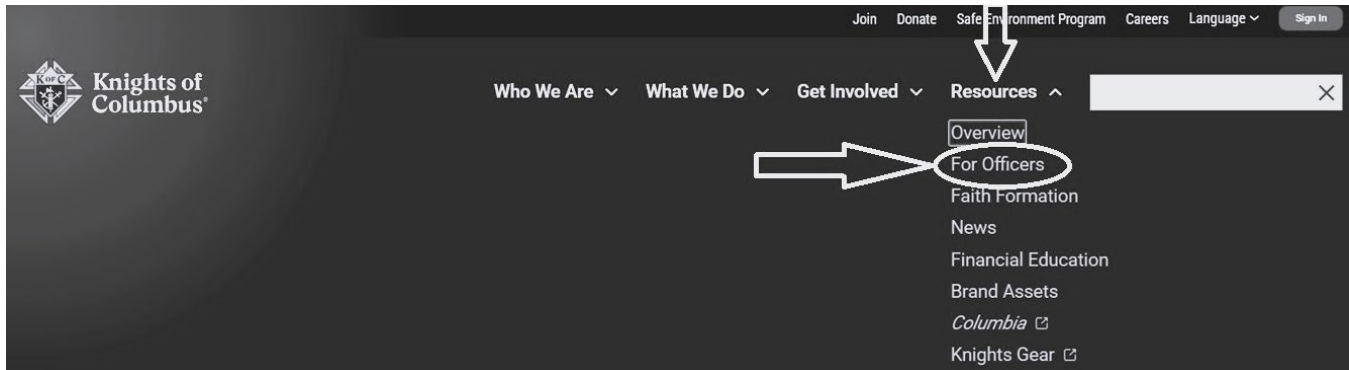
* These Reports may only be submitted by members in certain roles as designated on the Form 185 and Form 365
** These Reports may (and should) be submitted through Officers Online by the Grand Knight or Financial Secretary
- All other reports may be downloaded or submitted by any council member

Reports in bold are required for Star Council

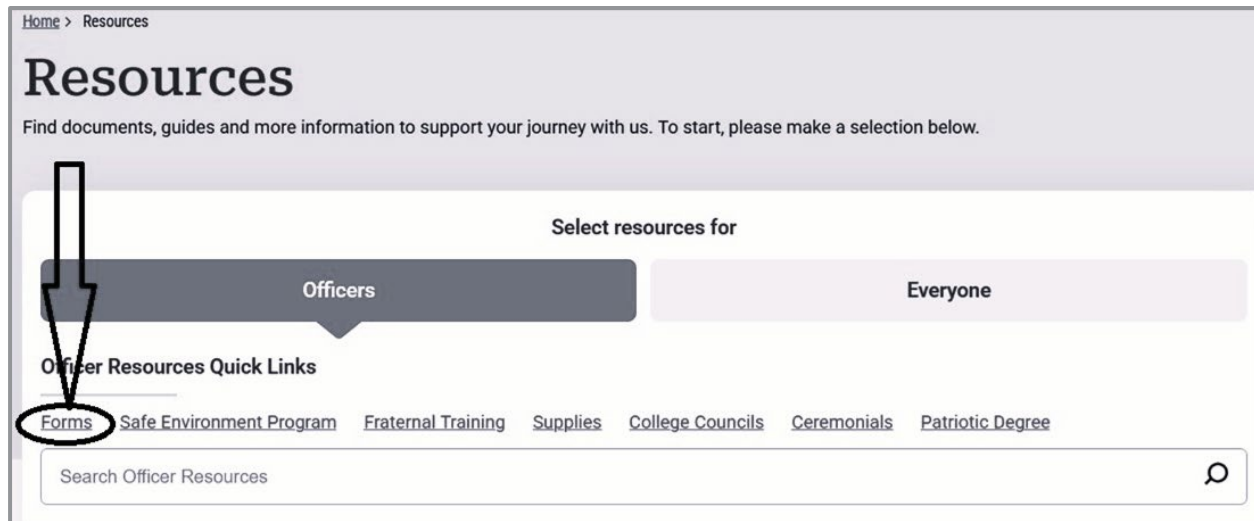


WHERE TO FIND SUPREME REPORTS

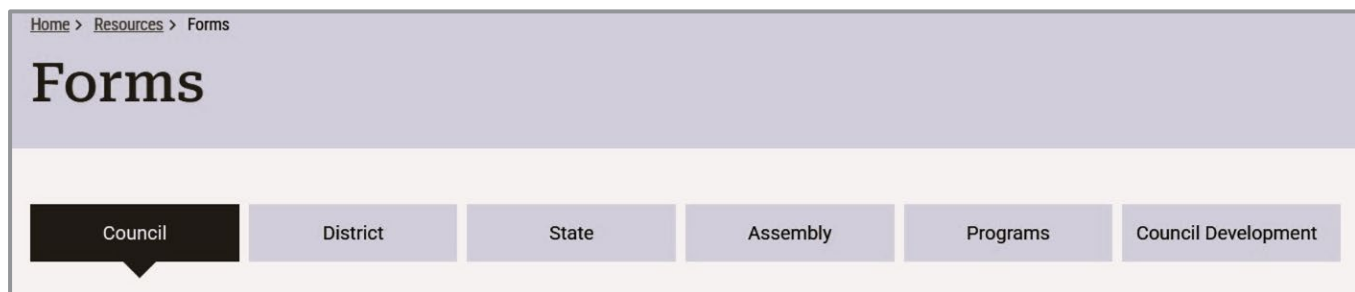
Start at the Supreme website: www.kofc.org. Click on the 'Resources' menu option and select the "For Officers" option.



On the Resources page, click on the "Forms" link to access the different pages that contain different forms for Supreme.



From the options on the Forms page, you can select the different types of forms that you will need to submit:



"Council" forms are those that are needed for running the council and keeping in good contact with Supreme:

- Form 365 - Service Program Personnel Report
- Form 185 - Report of Officers Chosen for the Term
- Form 1295 - Semiannual Council Audit
- Form SP-7 - Columbian Award Application
- Form 1728 - Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity

"Programs" forms are those that should be used for reporting council activities:

- Form 10874 – Fraternal Programs Report Form
- Form SP-7 – Columbian Award Application
- Form 2863 – RSVP Refund Application
- Form 10057 – Food for Families Refund Application
- Form 10716 – Ultrasound - Application
- Form 10784 – Family of the Month Entry Form

“District” forms are those that a District Deputy should use for aiding councils and submitting the Form 944 - District Deputy Annual Report that should be submitted for all councils in the District. **“Assembly”** forms, like the “Council” forms, are those that are needed for running the 4th Degree Assembly and keeping in contact with Supreme.

You can choose between the PDF Form or, in most cases, the Online (Preferred Method). When you choose the Online method, you will be asked to enter your Membership Number and Last Name. When you enter your number and name, you will receive an email with a link to the form. Only the Grand Knight and Financial Secretary will be able to submit certain forms, like the 365, 185 and SP-7. Other forms, like the 10784 can be submitted by any member of the council.

If you are not in a role that is allowed to submit a particular form, when you click on the link, you will receive the message, “You are not in a role that is able to submit this form.” After you submit a form, you will receive a copy from Supreme via email. You can share these copies with other council officers, District Deputy, State Officers and Directors by email. Please send a copy of all 10784s and SP-7s to the State Program Director.

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 will be erased from the form. You can fill in any field that is shaded in light blue. Once you have completed the form, attach it to an e-mail and send it to the people listed on the bottom of the form. Be sure to save a copy for yourself. While it is possible to print the form and mail it, it really slows down the processing of the form, so Supreme and State Executive Secretary would prefer you e-mail your submission.

Remember to email a copy of the completed form to the State Executive Secretary for record keeping instead of the State Deputy. This is the only way that the State Council knows that your council has submitted a farm, and in the event of a submission discrepancy, the State Executive Secretary can provide the copy he 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, Rosary 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: _____



Page 1 of 2

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>

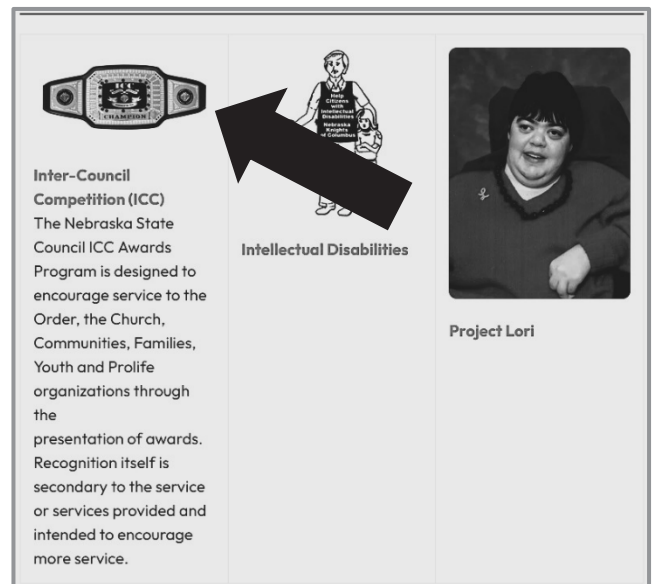
WHERE TO FIND STATE REPORTS

Start at the State website: nebraskakofc.org



Click on Programs on the top menu. If the menu does not appear at the top of your screen, your screen is too small and it will be on the right side. (You can reduce the size of the screen within the Settings of your browser.) Under the options below 'Programs' select the "ICC" option to go to the ICC page.

You can also click on the "Overview" option and scroll down on the page until you find the section about the Inter-Council Competition. Clicking on the ICC Championship Belt image will take you to the ICC page.



The ICC page contains information about the Inter-Council Competition and the reports that councils can submit to participate. There are links to the “ICC Tracker” that tracks progress by all councils in the State and the dates that each form is due to be submitted to the State. There is also information about the State’s Keystone Projects, that councils can conduct and report to earn a reduction in their ICC Membership goal. (This does not affect a council’s Supreme Membership quota).

To get to the actual ICC forms themselves, navigate down the page and click on the red “Download or Complete ICC Forms Here” button.

Download or Complete ICC Forms Here

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 for the council.

DO NOT use forms located on the STATE FORMS section of the Supreme Website for ICC. 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. The Form 10874 for reporting programs conducted by your council can be attached to the ICC Form to reduce your time.

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, photos and artwork (.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 “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 also be emailed to the person submitting the form or to the email address provided on the form.

ICC Award Applications do not take the place of Form 10784, but a copy of the 10784 can be attached to an ICC report. The Form 10784 reports activities to Supreme, while the ICC Activity Report forms report activities to the STATE.

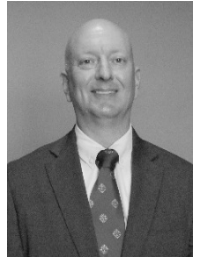
More information and pictures of the ICC Award Applications can be found in the ICC Reports and Forms section of this State Program Book.

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.

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 as a high school senior, just prior to my 18th birthday, following my Dad and Grandfather, and joining my three brothers. After graduating from University of Nebraska in Lincoln, I settled there and transferred my membership to Council 11001. I have served in all council offices in that council from Recorder to Grand Knight and Trustee, as well as District Deputy from 2008 – 2012. In the Fourth Degree, I have held offices for both Bishop Kucera Assembly 595 and St. John Paul the Great Assembly 3640, where I continue to serve as Trustee.

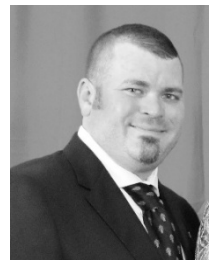
Since 2013 I have served the state council as the Athletics Chairman, on the Membership Team and as IT / Production for four state deputies. I served as the State Membership Director under Past State Deputies Tony Hergott (2015–2017) and Mark Borytsky (2019–2021) as well as the Assistant Program Directory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

I am a member of Blessed Sacrament Parish, where I serve as an Acolyte, Lector and Usher. I have been an active member of my Light of the World group for 25 years. For 12 years, I have worked as the Special Projects Coordinator for the Diocese of Lincoln. In 2023, through the help of the Holy Spirit, prayers from family and friends and the intercession of St. Joseph, I met and married my amazing wife, Jenny. She currently also works 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. It has been my experience that every single council in this state does great things – for their members, for their parish(es) and for their communities. I offer 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 drives my focus. I want to help every council do their best to bring Christ’s love to their corner of God’s creation and put their faith into their projects. Whether I can help a council find the resources that it needs to complete a project or fill out the dreaded “paperwork” that keep our councils and order running smoothly, 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. So, please ask me for assistance or advice with this necessary, but unglamorous task.

STATE ASSISTANT PROGRAM DIRECTOR – JESSE HINES

Jesse Hines joined the Knights of Columbus in February of 2018 in Lincoln. In a short 4 months he went from 1st degree to 4th degree. That May he was elected Deputy Grand Knight and Program Director. As DGK and Program Director, he helped the council achieve ICC Gold and ICC Champion Council of the Year. 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 ICC Champion Council of the Year. After his term as Grand Knight, Jesse became District Deputy 11, and was selected as DD of the year for 2022-2023 and again for 2025-26. In 2024 Jesse was selected to join the Blessed Michael McGivney Leader Fellowship supreme sponsored leadership training program. This program was instrumental in building his prayer life and leadership skills. In 2026, Jesse was one of 50 in the inaugural graduating class for the McGivney Fellowship.



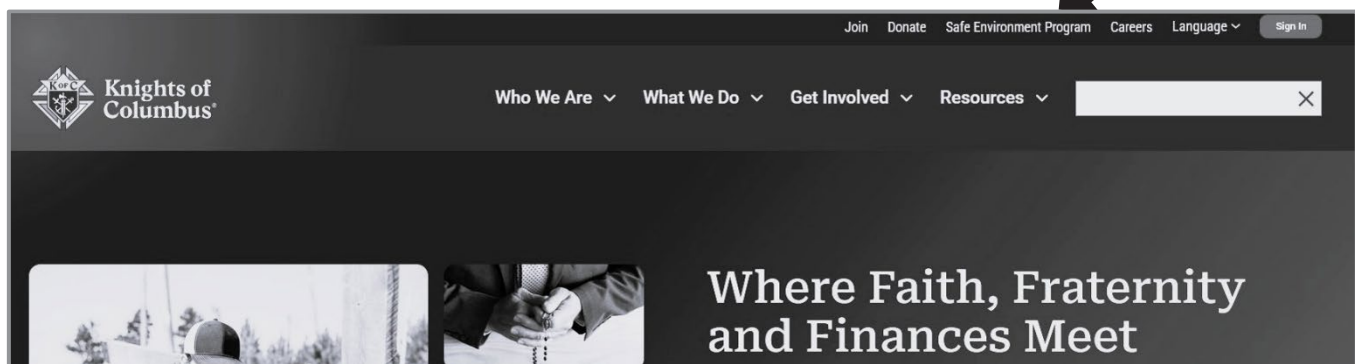
Jesse has been married to his amazing wife, Jessica, since 2016. She has played an integral role in his involvement in the Knights and is his number one supporter. Jesse enjoys fishing on his boat, spending time with family, and watching football, baseball and hockey. Jesse and Jessica have three rescue dogs that keep them busy. Jesse is an Acolyte at St. Vincent DePaul in Seward 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.

SAFE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM TRAINING AND BACKGROUND CHECK REQUIREMENTS

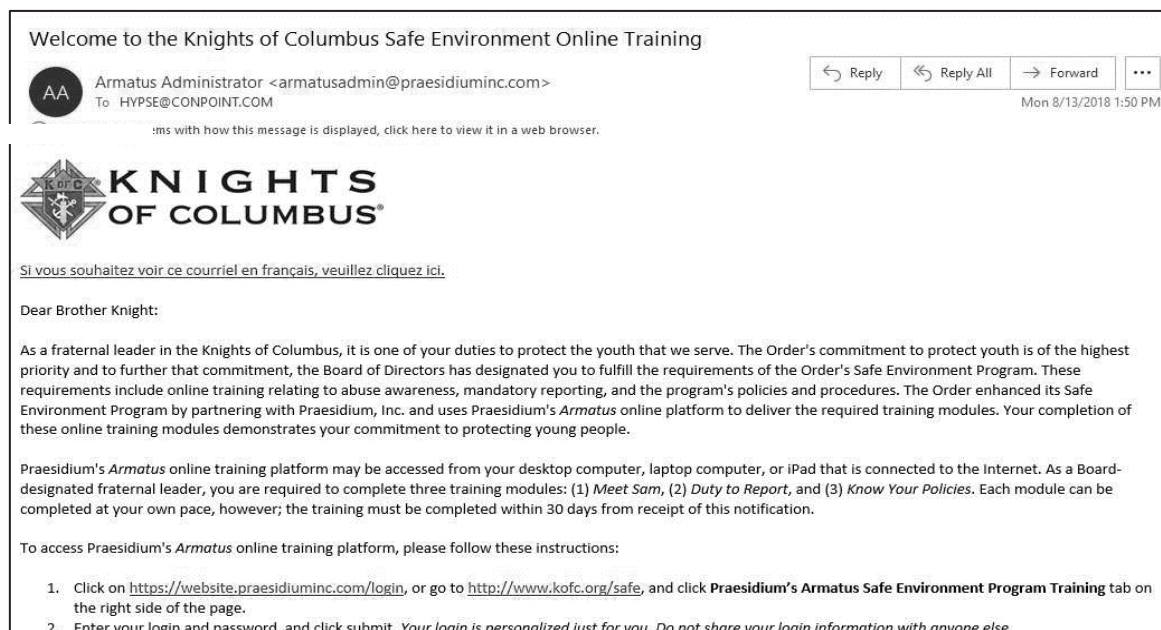
When you fill out your Form 185 (Report of Officers) and Form 365 (Service Program Personnel Report) be sure to include the Grand Knight, Program Director, Family Director, and Community Director positions. Each position must be filled by a different person and must include a personal email address for 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, 2025.

5 Divisions:

- Division 1Councils with 01 - 55 Members
- Division 2Councils with 56 - 80 Members
- Division 3Councils with 81 - 135 Members
- Division 4Councils with 136 - 220 Members
- Division 5Councils 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	11600	003	Omaha
2351	024	Wood River	11674	007	Dawson / Shubert
2373	029	Orleans	11810	041	Pender
4434	023	Fairbury	11822	038	Friend / Exeter
5218	016	Verdigre	12132	014	Stanton
6268	001	Omaha	12200	031	Scottsbluff
6385	027	Bassett / Ainsworth	12517	017	Battle Creek
7081	030	Imperial	12530	028	North Platte
7734	029	Cambridge	12557	040	Ashland / Greenwood
7778	030	Grant	13496	041	Lyons
7779	041	Wisner	14070	011	Sutton / Harvard
7825	020	St Edward	14423	036	Shelby
7966	038	Wilber	14508	038	Beaver Crossing / Utica
9898	014	Leigh	15869	008	Odell
10163	030	Benkelman / Stratton	18817	010	Lincoln
10815	005	Omaha			

Division 2					
Council	District	Location	Council	District	Location
1128	042	Chadron	10155	039	Roseland
2040	024	Lexington	10335	039	Minden
2693	029	Indianola	10386	011	Central City
3720	026	Spencer	10592	016	Bloomfield
5287	001	Omaha	11054	017	Pierce
5315	028	Cozad	11364	035	Omaha
5383	036	Osceola	11824	039	Doniphan
6750	008	Tecumseh	12687	024	Elm Creek
7614	040	Syracuse	13015	009	Lincoln
7684	023	Geneva	13080	005	Omaha
7704	038	Crete	14320	038	Cortland
7714	023	Superior	15101	034	Omaha
7887	014	Clarkson	15407	010	Lincoln
7954	020	Fullerton	15647	037	Davey
9939	015	Ponca	15944	036	Bellwood
10000	007	Steinauer	16878	009	Lincoln

Division 3											
Council	District	Location		Council	District	Location		Council	District	Location	
975	042	Alliance		5881	026	Stuart		10285	031	Gering	
1159	022	Grand Island		7021	007	Auburn		10305	013	Ft Calhoun	
1238	017	Creighton		7034	006	Valley		10412	013	Blair	
1312	021	Greeley		7550	018	Neligh		10506	028	North Platte	
1336	007	Falls City		8010	011	Aurora		10607	020	Genoa	
1708	038	York		8590	029	Holdrege		10894	004	Springfield	
1723	008	Beatrice		8889	037	Brainard		11363	022	Grand Island	
1904	023	Hebron		8986	018	Madison		11737	038	Denton	
4633	027	Valentine		9704	009	Lincoln		14685	016	Crofton	
5045	002	Omaha		9918	003	Omaha		14914	034	Elkhorn	
5143	015	Randolph		10184	032	Omaha		16680	005	Omaha	

Division 4										
Council	District	Location		Council	District	Location		Council	District	Location
652	032	Omaha		3736	013	North Bend		10387	022	Gr. Island
1126	030	McCook		3844	015	S. Sioux City		10895	003	Omaha
1211	028	North Platte		4707	026	Atkinson		10923	024	Kearney
1794	018	Humphrey		4979	028	Ogallala		10965	034	Omaha
1861	031	Sidney		5439	014	Howells		11001	009	Lincoln
1906	023	Lawrence		5455	025	Loup City		11312	010	Lincoln
1918	025	St Paul		7699	020	Lindsay		11800	032	Omaha
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	Gr. Island		13956	001	Omaha
3152	040	Nebr. City		9771	003	Omaha				

Division 5										
Council	District	Location		Council	District	Location		Council	District	Location
701	026	O Neil		2411	018	Elgin		10108	002	Omaha
833	009	Lincoln		2716	019	Schuyler		10160	004	Omaha
938	019	Columbus		3019	005	South Omaha		10510	033	Lincoln
1123	039	Hastings		4923	033	Lincoln		10795	034	Omaha
1233	016	Hartington		6192	035	Bellevue		10909	002	Omaha
1497	013	Fremont		6429	035	Papillion		10913	033	Lincoln
1717	036	David City		7740	004	Omaha		11280	010	Lincoln
1728	024	Kearney		9264	019	Columbus		11700	002	Omaha
1739	021	Albion		9518	006	Ralston		11879	035	Bellevue
1793	017	Norfolk		9563	033	Lincoln		12086	019	Columbus
1833	037	Wahoo		10047	004	Gretna		14077	006	Omaha
2272	041	West Point								

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

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

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, 2027.
- 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, 2027.
- 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, 2027.
- 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:

ICC stands for “Inter-Council Competition”. It is the program that Nebraska uses for reporting and rewarding councils for the great work that they do. The ICC exists 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. Any council that is growing its membership, conducting great programs, and taking care of the paperwork should attain one of the ICC levels.

New for 2026-2027:

We have replaced the Audit due to Supreme on Feb. 15th (which is no longer required) with being Safe Environment Compliant. Ensuring that your council is Safe Environment Compliant is one of the most important things that your council can do to keep kids safe in your community and provide a safe environment for kids at all of your council events. Councils that are compliant by Dec. 31st will be eligible for Gold Status. If you are compliant by March 1st, you can achieve Silver Status. And if you are compliant by April 1st, you can achieve Bronze Status.

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 2026-2027 ICC Awards Program (i.e. 75% would become 65%, 50% drops to 40%, and 25% to 15%). Councils that complete all eight (8) of the Keystone Projects receive a 40% reduction in their Membership Quota of the 2026-2027 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 2026-2027 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 Councils that complete all qualifications for Gold Level on the next page will be included on the ballot.

Congratulations to our ICC Champion for 2025-2026:

Council 8010 – Msgr. Hubert Campo – Aurora / Giltner

Andrew Ostdiek – Grand Knight



2026-2027 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	
Form 185 Report of Officers	JUN 30		MAR 1		MAR 1	
Form 365 Service Personnel	JUN 30		MAR 1		MAR 1	
Form 1295 Annual Audit	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	
Safe Environment Compliance	DEC 31		MAR 1		APR 1	
Form 1728 Fraternal Activity Annual Survey	JAN 31		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 Or ICC Rookie Knight of the Year	MAR 1		Turn in one of these applications by MAR 1			
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 (Annual Audit), 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.

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

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

Volunteers: Members + Non Members = Total Volunteers

Total Volunteers x 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. Click on Programs at the top of the page and ICC from the subsequent menu option. Scroll down the page until you find a button that says, "Download or Complete ICC Forms Here".

All reports are up to date through the March 1 deadline. Please make sure that you verify all of the reporting information so we can look into any discrepancies.

If you find any discrepancies with this report and your records, please contact the State Program Director immediately.

[Download or Complete ICC Forms Here](#)



Due: September 1

Most of 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

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.**

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.

Council Number (Required)

Please type in your Council Name.

Council Name (Required)

Select your District Number from the drop down list.

District Number (Required)



Please type in your Council's Home City.

Council City (Required)

Grand Knight/Program Director Name * REQUIRED

First Name *

Last Name *

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

Grand Knight/Program Director Email Address (Required)

FAITH IN ACTION CATEGORIES

FAITH	COMMUNITY
Imitating Saint Juan Diego Holy Hour Into the Breach Refund Support Vocations Program (RSVP) Spiritual Reflection Viva Cristo Rey Pilgrim Icon Program Building the Domestic Church Kiosk Rosary Program Sacramental Gifts	Bright Futures Celebrating Our Catholic Heritage Coats for Kids Global Wheelchair Mission Habitat for Humanity Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest Disaster Preparedness Free Throw Championship Helping Hands Hockey Challenge Soccer Challenge
FAMILY	LIFE
Family Fully Alive Family of the Month/Year Family Prayer Night Food for Families Remembering Our Faithful Departed Quinceanera Support Consecration to the Holy Family Family Week Good Friday Family Promotion Keep Christ in Christmas	Holy Hour for Life with Our Lady of Guadalupe Gospel of Life March for Life Pregnancy Center Support / Aid & Support After Pregnancy (ASAP) Special Olympics Ultrasound Initiative Christian Refugee Relief Mass for People with Special Needs Novena for Life Silver Rose

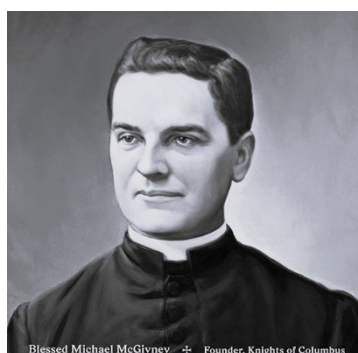
Bold denotes a Supreme Featured Program.

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 Supreme's requirements for that program it can receive two credits towards that program category on the Columbian Award Application (#SP-7). All programs should be reported to Supreme on the Fraternal Programs Report Form (#10784).

At the end of the calendar year, report all completed programs on the Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity (#1728); also report all completed programs on the Columbian Award Application (#SP-7).



FAITH IN ACTION RESOURCES

Additional information about each of the individual programs featured programs requirements can be found on the program guide sheets at: www.kofc.org/resources/officer-resources/engagement/faith-in-action-programs/resources/. These are all located on the Supreme Website at www.kofc.org under “Resources”, click on “For Officers”. Scroll down and in the “Featured Officer Resources” section, click on the “View Resources” button.



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](#) NEW
- [#11139 Faith in Action Remote Programming Supplement](#)

FAITH IN ACTION FORMS

Program forms are at: www.kofc.org/resources/officer-resources/administration/forms/#tabset=tabset-tabset---forms&tab=tab-block-28697. These are all located on the Supreme Website at www.kofc.org under “Resources”, click on “For Officers”. In the “Officer Resources Quick Links” section, click on the “Forms” link and then select the “Programs” tab.

 Who We Are ▾ What We Do ▾ Get Involved ▾ Resources ▾					
Council	District	State	Assembly	Programs	Council Development
Form Number	Council Forms		PDF	Online (Preferred Method)	Due Date
Online Form	ASAP Grant Application		N/A	Online (Preferred Method)	6/30
#10784	Fraternal Programs Report Form		N/A	Online (Preferred Method)	As Needed
#2863	RSVP Refund Application		PDF	N/A	6/30
#10057	Food for Families Refund Application		PDF	N/A	6/30
#10715	Ultrasound - Diocesan Evaluation Form		PDF	N/A	As Needed
#10716	Ultrasound - Application		PDF	N/A	As Needed
#SP-7	Columbian Award Application		PDF	Online (Preferred Method)	6/30
#10784	Family of the Month Entry Form		N/A	Online (Preferred Method)	6/30

FAITH PROGRAMS

We strive to form ourselves and our families in faith – a faith that overflows into works of charity and evangelization in our wider communities.

Imitating Saint Juan Diego Program -- Featured Program

The Imitating Saint Juan Diego program encourages councils to promote devotion to St. Juan Diego and Our Lady of Guadalupe. As Knights of Columbus, whose patroness is Our Lady of Guadalupe, we are called to be her messengers, just as St. Juan Diego was throughout his life. The appearance of Our Lady of Guadalupe to St. Juan Diego led to the mass conversion of millions of indigenous people to the Catholic Faith and continues to serve as a means of evangelization today. Councils can teach others about their lives and status as powerful intercessors by organizing a traveling image of Our Lady of Guadalupe for families, by encouraging acts of popular piety, and by sharing other devotional materials with members and their parish communities.

Featured Program Requirements: For two program credits toward the Columbian Award – Organize a traveling image of Our Lady of Guadalupe in your community to encourage families to pray and grow in devotion to Our Lady. Report activity using the Fraternal Programs Report Form (#10784)

Pilgrim Icon

Every few years, the Knights of Columbus select a Catholic icon featuring an image that is particularly edifying 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. The current icon in circulation depicts the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. It is the aim of this program to continue to foster greater devotion to the Sacred Heart among Knights and their communities. More than 191,000 council and parish prayer services with some 23 million participants have been held since the first traveling pilgrim icon of Our Lady of Guadalupe in 1979. For Pilgrim Icon Program resources, visit www.kofc.org/pilgrimicon. Additionally, in conjunction with the Sacred Heart Holy Hour, Knights and their families are encouraged to enthrone the Sacred Heart of Jesus in their homes using this the enthronement resources mentioned in this guide sheet.

Building the Domestic Church Kiosk

By making the Building the Domestic Church Kiosk (#BDC-K) available in your parish and organizing activities based on its content, councils will educate and evangelize using the rich, faith-based literature 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, councils will receive 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. For Building the Domestic Church Kiosk program resources, visit www.kofc.org/kiosk.

Holy Hour -- Featured Program

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: 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 in the Eucharist and to share His presence with the world. 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. For Holy Hour program resources, visit www.kofc.org/holyhour. For additional Eucharistic Procession resources, visit kofc.org/eucharist.

Featured Program Requirements: For two program credits toward the Columbian Award – Hold a minimum of four Holy Hours (one per quarter) or organize and support two Holy Hours and at least one Eucharistic Procession.

Into The Breach -- Featured Program

Into the Breach is a call to battle for men which urges them to embrace masculine virtues in a world at crisis. Three video series and accompanying study guides equip men with the wisdom they need to better lead themselves and their families in living out the Faith:

- The original Into the Breach video series, inspired by the apostolic exhortation of Bishop Thomas J. Olmsted, outlines the challenges faced by men of faith in the world today.
- Into the Breach: The Mission of the Family presents the Catholic vision of marriage and family life and inspires them to incorporate it into daily life. This series can also be viewed by couples.
- Into the Breach: The Dignity of Work describes the Catholic vision of man's mission in the world and the role of work in his life and sanctification.

Councils host sessions with members of the council and parish, such as Cor gatherings, to view each series and discuss the content. Resources and videos are available at www.kofc.org/intothebreach.

Featured Program Requirements: Hold sessions to discuss each of the episodes of the original Into the Breach video series, the Into the Breach: The Mission of the Family series or the Into the Breach: The Dignity of Work series.

Rosary

The Knights of Columbus Rosary Program encourages councils to promote devotion to the rosary in our families and parishes by scheduling 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. Kits with rosary rings, rosary prayer guides, and leader books are available for councils to order. For Rosary program resources, visit www.kofc.org/rosary.

Refund Support Vocations Program (RSVP) -- Featured Program

As the strong right arm of the church, Knights of Columbus are committed to providing moral, financial and spiritual support to our future priests and religious at all stages of their formation. 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. Councils are also called to provide their "adopted" seminarian or religious aspirant with moral support and prayers for their success. For RSVP resources, visit www.kofc.org/rsvp.

Featured Program Requirements: For two program credits toward the Columbian Award – Complete the requirements to qualify for at least one RSVP refund. Report activity and apply for the refund using the RSVP Refund Application (#2863)

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. For Sacramental Gifts program resources, visit www.kofc.org/gifts.

Spiritual Reflection -- Featured Program

Create annual opportunities for prayer and reflection together 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 go attend an existing retreat as a group. For Spiritual Reflection program resources, visit www.kofc.org/reflection.

Featured Program Requirements: For two program credits toward the Columbian Award – Host or attend a Spiritual Reflection for the men of the council and the parish that is at least a day long and is attended by 10 men or 10% of your council, whichever is fewer.

Viva Cristo Rey – Featured Program

The ¡Viva Cristo Rey! program celebrates the sanctity of the Mexican Martyrs, including members of the Knights of Columbus, who were killed for their faith during the religious persecution of Catholics by the Mexican government in the early 20th century. During the persecution, which led to “La Cristiada,” or the “Cristero War,” priests, missionaries and members of religious orders were expelled from the country, more than a million Mexicans migrated to the United States seeking refuge and others spontaneously organized to defend themselves against government oppression, some peacefully and others taking up arms under the banner of “Cristo Rey y Santa María de Guadalupe” or “Christ the King and Holy Mary of Guadalupe.” Councils are encouraged to ask for the intercession of the Mexican Martyrs by going to Mass, praying the novena leading up to their feast days, and spreading devotion to these saints and blessed throughout their community.

Featured Program Requirements: For two program credits toward the Columbian Award – Organize a novena and/or Mass in honor of the Mexican Martyrs. Report activity using the Fraternal Programs Report Form (#10784).

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

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.***

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 important and impactful 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. For Consecration to the Holy Family resources, visit www.kofc.org/consecration. **(Please Note: This consecration can and should be celebrated every year as an opportunity both for new parishioners to participate in the consecration and for those who have already participated to reconsecrate themselves to the Holy Family.)**

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”. 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. For Family Fully Alive resources, visit www.kofc.org/familyfullyalive.

Featured Program Requirements: For two program credits toward the Columbian Award – Distribute and actively promote the use of the Family Fully Alive Booklets (#10162).

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. For Family of the Month/Year resources, visit www.kofc.org/familyofthemoth.

Featured Program Requirements: For two program credits toward the Columbian Award – Recognize twelve families throughout the fraternal year (one each month) and submit a Family of the Year to the jurisdiction. Report activity using the Fraternal Programs Report Form (#10784) each month and a Family of the Year Entry Form (#10680) by the jurisdiction due date.

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. For Family Prayer Night resources, visit www.kofc.org/prayernight.

Featured Program Requirements: For two program credits toward the Columbian Award – Organize a minimum of four Family Prayer Nights, one for each quarter of the year.

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. For Family Prayer Night resources, visit www.kofc.org/prayernight.

Featured Program Requirements: For two program credits toward the Columbian Award – Organize a minimum of four Family Prayer Nights, one for each quarter of the year.

Family Week

Knights of Columbus councils will dedicate a special week of the year to recognize the vital importance of families as the foundation of our domestic church and to promote Catholic family values. When choosing a week, councils should consider factors that might affect 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 McGivney, this program can take place anytime during the year. For Family Week Resources, visit www.kofc.org/familyweek.

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 end. 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. For Food for Families resources, visit www.kofc.org/food.

Featured Program Requirements: For two program credits toward the Columbian Award – Collect a minimum of \$500 or 1,000 pounds of food for a parish or community food pantry and contribute a minimum of 100 total man-hours in preparation/distribution/service of meals. Report activity and apply for the refund using the Food for Families Refund Application (#10057).

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. For Good Friday Family Promotion resources, visit www.kofc.org/goodfriday.

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, Light Up for Christ, Crèche or Advent Wreath Blessing, and the Christmas Poster Contest. These activities 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 Keep Christ in Christmas resources, visit www.kofc.org/christmas.

Remembering Our Faithful Departed

The Remembering Our Faithful Departed program calls upon councils to honor and pray for the deceased members of their council, families, and parish community. By commemorating the dearly departed, and asking for the intercession of the saints, Knights can help others overcome the grief that accompanies the death of a loved one, strengthen family bonds, promote the unique cultural and religious traditions of their parishes, and help the suffering souls in purgatory. Councils can implement the Remembering Our Faithful Departed program by creating "ofrendas" and altars in their churches or homes which serve as a call to prayer for the deceased. Other means of commemoration can include praying a Memorial Rosary (#11844) at cemeteries, offering a Mass for the deceased, or praying the One Hundred Requiem prayer (#11852). Councils can also work with their parishes to organize a youth costume party honoring the Saints or clean and decorate gravestones and cemetery plots.

Featured Program Requirements: For two program credits toward the Columbian Award – Organize an event to remember the faithful departed of your parish and council. Report activity using the Fraternal Programs Report Form (#10784).

Keep Christ in Christmas

The Quinceañera Support program encourages councils to support the quinceañera celebrations of the families in their parish. A quinceañera, common in Hispanic cultures, celebrates a 15-year-old young woman's passage from childhood to adulthood, thanks God for the blessing of her life and asks for His blessing going forward. Councils can serve as a part of this important milestone by providing resources, manpower and general support for the celebration and related prayer services or thanksgiving Mass. Knights can carry out their duties to form families and support their parishes by providing assistance with this formative aspect of young women's spiritual lives, especially by offering Our Lady as a role model.

Featured Program Requirements: For two program credits toward the Columbian Award – provide support for a quinceañera celebration in your parish. Report activity using the Fraternal Programs Report Form (#10784).

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

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.

Bright Futures -- Featured Program

The Bright Futures program invites councils to support the students and schools in their communities. Too often, youth face significant barriers to their educational success. Councils can help by providing funding and resources to those most in need. Popular ways to provide support include establishing parish libraries, running supply drives and fundraisers, participating in school beautification projects and supporting other volunteer programs offered by schools. Catholic schools are in particular need of council support.

Featured Program Requirements: For two program credits toward the Columbian Award – Host an event to support students or schools in your area that incorporates your parish community and council. Report activity using the Fraternal Programs Report Form (#10784).

Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest

The Knights of Columbus sponsors the Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest to encourage today's youth to be more connected to their community and their faith. The goal of this program is to involve young Catholics in 8th through 12th grade (public, private, parochial or home schools) in civic discourse and instill in them religious and life-affirming values. The essay should be approximately 500-750 words on a specific subject, changing every other year. Entrants will be judged on grammar, style, and how clearly they present the theme – which should showcase creativity, imagination and overall development of the topic. For Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest resources, visit www.kofc.org/essay.

Celebrating Our Catholic Heritage -- Featured Program

The Celebrating Our Catholic Heritage program encourages councils and their parishes to celebrate the culture and traditions of their communities. Catholics have played a significant role in the history of North America, contributing to its spiritual, cultural and social fabrics. Councils can celebrate and share the richness of Catholic heritage by hosting festivals and other events that include the food, music, art, and faith-based devotions of the countries or cultures represented in their areas. This program aims to educate, inspire, and unite the community while celebrating the deep-rooted faith and cultural heritage of Catholics.

Featured Program Requirements: For two program credits toward the Columbian Award – Host an event celebrating your parish community's heritage. Report activity using the Fraternal Programs Report Form (#10784).

Coats for Kids -- Featured Program

To help provide warmth for deserving children during cold winter months, councils across North America can purchase new winter coats at a discounted price. The goal of the Knights of Columbus Coats for Kids® program is to ensure that no child in North America goes without a coat during winter. For Coats for Kids resources, visit www.kofc.org/coats.

Featured Program Requirements: For two program credits toward the Columbian Award – Purchase a minimum of 6 cases of Supreme offered coats and host a distribution event (4 cases for Canada). Report activity using the Fraternal Programs Report Form (#10784).

Disaster Preparedness

From natural disasters to local crises, communities can be brought to a halt when a disaster occurs. Councils can help their communities prepare before one of these disasters strikes. As community leaders, Knights of Columbus will help to ensure that their members, families and parish communities are prepared, educated and ready. For Disaster Preparedness resources, visit www.kofc.org/prepare.

Free Throw Championship

Knights of Columbus councils sponsor the Free Throw Championship for boys and girls ages 9-14 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 competition. For Free Throw resources, visit www.kofc.org/freethrow.

Global Wheelchair Mission -- Featured Program

The Knights of Columbus has partnered with the American Wheelchair Mission and Canadian Wheelchair Foundation, which falls under the Umbrella of the Global Wheelchair Mission, to obtain wheelchairs at a deeply discounted price. These wheelchairs help provide aid to those who lack the freedom of mobility in our communities. The Global Wheelchair Mission is a perfect opportunity to put your Faith in Action and involve the entire community through rewarding charitable work done by councils. For Global Wheelchair resources, visit www.kofc.org/wheelchair.

Featured Program Requirements: For two program credits toward the Columbian Award – Donate the equivalent of a minimum of 10 wheelchairs at \$150USD per chair to the American Wheelchair Mission. Report activity using the Fraternal Programs Report Form (#10784)

Habitat for Humanity -- Featured Program

Knights of Columbus councils work closely with Habitat for Humanity, a nonprofit Christian organization, to build homes for 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. For Habitat for Humanity program resources, visit www.kofc.org/habitat.

Featured Program Requirements: For two program credits toward the Columbian Award – Donate a minimum of \$1,000 or 200 service hours to a Habitat for Humanity project in your community. Report activity using the Fraternal Programs Report Form (#10784).

Helping Hands

In the spirit of our founder, Blessed Michael McGivney, the Helping Hands Program is designed to help those in need by incorporating the important work many councils already do to care for the most disadvantaged members of our communities. Through this program, councils will aid the needy, homeless, and the addicted through the activities they feel best suit their communities, such as serving at or running a soup kitchen, repairing the facilities of a local service organization or something entirely unique. For Helping Hands resources visit www.kofc.org/helpinghands. *(Please Note: Participating in the Helping Hands Program does not satisfy the programming requirements for the Food for Families Program. The two activities are separate and cannot be double-counted. Also, this program is intended to be broad reaching within your community and not specific to certain individuals. It should address the needs of whole groups.)*

Hockey Challenge

The Hockey Challenge is a great way for councils to engage in their communities with an athletic event for youth between the ages of 10 and 17 that cultivates athletic abilities and virtues of good sportsmanship. Children demonstrate the most important skill in hockey – shooting accuracy on goal. Youth compete within their own gender and age to progress from the local level to district, regional and state/province competitions. For Hockey Challenge Resources, visit www.kofc.org/hockey.

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. Youth compete within their own gender and age to progress from the local level to district, regional and state competitions. For Soccer Challenge resources, visit www.kofc.org/soccer.

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

LIFE PROGRAMS

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

Holy Hour for Life with Our Lady of Guadalupe -- Featured Program

The Holy Hour for Life with Our Lady of Guadalupe program calls upon councils to organize adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and a special prayer service to ask for Our Lady's intercession for the pro-life cause. As Patroness of the unborn, Our Lady is a powerful advocate for those at-risk of abortion and all those involved in the cause of life. Through this Holy Hour, councils and their parishes can pray for a variety of intentions such as the defense of the unborn, healing from infertility, care for mothers and families and an end to the evil of abortion.

Featured Program Requirements: For two program credits toward the Columbian Award – Organize a Holy Hour for Life with Our Lady at your parish. Report activity using the Fraternal Programs Report Form (#10784).

Christian Refugee Relief

Christians are at risk in areas all around the globe. The Knights of Columbus responded with the Persecuted Christians Fund, which has provided 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. For Christian Refugee Relief program resources, visit www.kofc.org/refugee.

The Gospel of Life – Featured Program

The Gospel of Life program calls upon councils to educate their members and wider parish communities on the sanctity of life from conception to natural death. To do so, councils can study the teachings of the Church, promote other informational resources and organize events featuring pro-life speakers. Councils can also use the Knights of Columbus Evangelium Vitae Study Guide (#614) to study St. John Paul II's historical encyclical and lead discussion groups or incorporate prayer campaigns into their efforts. By learning important truths about human life and sharing them with others, councils can help spread awareness of pro-life issues, save lives and strengthen families.

Featured Program Requirements: For two program credits toward the Columbian Award – Organize a study group using the Gospel of Life Study Guide (#614) or organize an event featuring a pro-life speaker. Report activity using the Fraternal Programs Report Form (#10784).

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 or rallies 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. For March for Life resources, visit www.kofc.org/march.

Featured Program Requirements: For two program credits toward the Columbian Award – Coordinate a minimum of 25 participants for a national, state or local March for Life or rally; charter a bus; or organize a local march or rally. Report activity using the Fraternal Programs Report Form (#10784).

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

liturgies 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. For Mass for Special Needs resources, visit www.kofc.org/mpsn.

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. For Novena for Life program resources, visit www.kofc.org/novenaforlife.

Pregnancy Center Support--Featured Program

More than three thousand pro-life pregnancy centers now operate in jurisdictions throughout the Order. By the very nature of our founding, Knights of Columbus are called to care for the widow and orphan. Abortion-vulnerable unborn children and mothers experiencing unexpected pregnancies certainly fall within our mandate. With our aid, pregnancy centers can offer support to help them choose life. Councils can “adopt” a pregnancy center, provide material, labor, & spiritual support throughout the year. For Pregnancy Center Support Program resources, visit www.kofc.org/support.

Featured Program Requirements: For two program credits toward the Columbian Award – Contact a local pregnancy center to assess its needs and support the center through fundraising, volunteering, or prayer; or carry out at least one of the suggested program options listed in the action steps (or a similar pro-life charitable or spiritual activity).

Silver Rose

Each year, from early March through mid-December, Silver Roses are stewarded by 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 Silver Rose program resources, visit www.kofc.org/rose.

Special Olympics--Featured Program

The Knights of Columbus has a unique partnership with Special Olympics and has helped athletes with disabilities compete in games around the world. Knights of Columbus councils have assisted with all aspects of the program including fundraising, 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. Work with Special Olympics affiliates to determine how best to fund, sponsor or volunteer for events in the local community. For Special Olympics resources, visit www.kofc.org/olympics.

Featured Program Requirements: For two program credits toward the Columbian Award – Contribute a minimum of 200 volunteer hours or \$2,000 in support of Special Olympics activities. Report activity using the Fraternal Programs Report Form (#10784).

Ultrasound Initiative--Featured Program

The Knights of Columbus works together to purchase ultrasound machines for qualifying pregnancy centers. After the state and/or local council raises 50% of the cost, the 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. This initiative is funded by Knights of Columbus state and local councils with matching grants from the Supreme Council's Culture of Life Fund. For Ultrasound Initiative resources, visit www.kofc.org/ultrasound.

Featured Program Requirements: For two program credits toward the Columbian Award – Contribute 50% of the cost of an ultrasound machine for a pregnancy center approved by the Supreme Council Department of Fraternal Mission. Qualification for this program will be determined from the information provided on both the Diocesan Evaluation (#10715) and the Ultrasound Application (#10716).

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.

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



STATE FAITH DIRECTORS – MARK & JULIE MAIN

My name is Mark Main. My wife, Julie, and I have been married for 37 years. I am a member of Council 11001 at Blessed Sacrament in Lincoln. Over the years, I have been honored to serve the Knights of Columbus in several capacities, including State Faith Director (two terms, 2019–2023), Regional Growth Director for Region 1 (2023 – 2025), District Deputy for six years, Grand Knight, Council Trustee, Faithful Navigator, and Assembly Trustee.



Julie and I are blessed with four children: our daughter Erin and her husband, Ethan Blackledge, who have given us two wonderful grandchildren, Penelope and Rhett; our daughters Ashley and Allison; and our son Alex and his wife, Maria.

Following my second open heart valve replacement, I am now semi-retired. Julie teaches Algebra at East High School in Lincoln. I thank Jesus every day for guiding me and helping me grow as a man of this great Order. I would not be here today without my Savior, my wife, my children, and the Knights of Columbus. This Order has taught me so much, and I am committed to passing on what I have learned to help form strong Catholic gentlemen. If you should have any questions, please contact me by text/phone 402-416-6458 or by email markmain65@gmail.com.

Supreme - Recommended Faith Programs

REFUND SUPPORT VOCATION PROGRAM (RSVP)

We partner with dioceses and parishes to foster and sustain vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Since 1981, the Knights of Columbus have contributed over \$100 million in direct support to seminarians and religious. More information is available in the Vocations Director section of this book.

INTO THE BREACH

The Into the Breach video series challenges and inspires Catholic men in a culture urgently needing authentic, virtuous masculinity. Explore the original Into the Breach, Into the Breach: The Mission of the Family, or the newest installment, Into the Breach: Dignity of Work.

SPIRITUAL REFLECTION

Finding dedicated time for prayer can be difficult. This program creates meaningful opportunities for spiritual renewal through retreats, days of reflection, and guided moments of encounter with Christ.

HOLY HOUR & EUCHARISTIC PROCESSIONS

We are humbled to stand with our Lord in the Eucharist—whether accompanying Him through our streets in procession or inviting others into His presence through Adoration.

PILGRIM ICON: Sacred Heart Holy Hour

For decades, Knights have strengthened parish faith life by hosting traveling pilgrim icons and leading the accompanying prayer services that inspire devotion and reflection.

IMITATING SAINT JUAN DIEGO

Embrace the mission of St. Juan Diego by promoting devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe and sharing her message of love, hope, and discipleship.

BUILDING THE DOMESTIC CHURCH KIOSK

We provide accessible, high quality faith formation materials for Catholics and make it easy for councils to distribute them within their parishes.

ROSARY

Strengthen families and communities by fostering devotion to the Holy Rosary and encouraging regular prayer together.

SACRAMENTAL GIFTS

Support families during the most meaningful moments in the life of the domestic Church by providing gifts that honor and celebrate the sacraments.

¡Viva Cristo Rey!

The ¡Viva Cristo Rey! Program honors the Mexican Martyrs—some of whom were Knights of Columbus—who courageously gave their lives for the faith during the persecutions of early 20th century Mexico.

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.
- Distribute Bibles, rosaries, and catechisms to parochial schools, religious education classes, and mission.

STATE VOCATIONS DIRECTOR – ROBERT WOLF, PSD

Bob and Chris Wolf have been married for 50 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 1st, 3rd and 4th 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.

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.

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

Vianney Vocations:

An internet supplier of several brochures and articles used to promote vocations in the parish. 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).

Omaha Archdiocese Vocations Office:

Vocations - Archdiocese of Omaha (archomaha.org)

Contact Fr Scott Schilmoeller or Kathie Weinfurtner (402) 558-3100

Lincoln Diocese Vocations Office:

Vocations (lincolndiocese.org)

Contact Fr. Alec Sasse at (402) 310-1708

fr.alec-sasse@huskercatholic.com

Fr. Brian Kane (402)-643-4052

sggs@sggs.edu

Grand Island Diocese Vocations Office:

<http://www.givocations.org/>

Contact Fr Neal Hock at (308) 234-1539

nhock@gidiocese.org

Deacon Matthew Irish (308)-532-0942

mirish@gidiocese.org

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.

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, 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 – MARK BORYTSKY, SR., PSD, DM

I am honored to have been asked by State Deputy Michael Schaeffer to serve as Community Director for this Fraternal Year. Having previously served as State Deputy, I look forward to drawing on that experience to support our Councils in every way I can. I am committed to helping your council strengthen its community programs and continue the proud tradition of service that defines Nebraska and our Order.



Audrey and I look forward to working with councils across the state in the coming Fraternal Year. I will ensure that every council has the information and guidance needed to succeed in their projects and activities. I am always available, and I am committed to supporting anyone who needs 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 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 2026.**

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. 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: October 24, 2026, at the Schuyler Field House.

The Field House is an indoor facility connected to Schuyler Middle School. The address is 200 W 10th 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 on or before December 15.

Knights of Columbus Free Throw Contest: April 10, 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 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 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. They are also blessed with four grandchildren. 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 for 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 on 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.

The Holy for Life with Our Lady of Guadalupe:

The Holy Hour for Life with Our Lady of Guadalupe program calls upon councils to organize adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and a special prayer service to ask for Our Lady's intercession for the pro-life cause. As Patroness of the unborn, Our Lady is a powerful advocate for those at-risk of abortion and all those involved in the cause of life. Through this Holy Hour, councils and their parishes can pray for a variety of intentions such as the defense of the unborn, healing from infertility, care for mothers and families and an end to the evil of abortion.

Featured Program Requirements: For two program credits toward the Columbian Award – Organize a Holy Hour for Life with Our Lady at your parish. Report activity using the Fraternal Programs Report Form (#10784).

Working with your pastor, develop a plan to offer a Holy Hour for Life with Our Lady.

- The Holy Hour can feature adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and incorporate the reflections and prayers from the Holy Hour for Life Booklet (#11887).
- Plan a date to offer the Holy Hour. This program may be offered at any time of year. However, days in October (Respect Life Month) or Marian Feast Days such as the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe (Dec. 12) are recommended.
- Consider displaying an image or tilma of Our Lady of Guadalupe in the church during the Holy Hour. These items are available on Supplies Online.
- Invite Knights and other parish leaders, such as the parish Respect Life group, to serve in roles during the Holy Hour such as leading each decade of the rosary. Review the Holy Hour for Life Booklet (#11887) before assigning roles.
- Build public interest for the program! Promote the program in your parish and larger community through a variety of efforts:
 - In advance of the Holy Hour, share the short video Our Lady of Guadalupe: The Woman of the Eucharist with your council and parish.
 - Prominently display promotional posters at the high-traffic areas of the parish.

- Make bulletin and pulpit announcements.
- Post on your council and parish website / social media pages.
- Share the event in all digital council communications.
- Invite pro-life groups in the area to attend the event.
- Distribute the Holy Hour for Life Booklets (#11887) to participants before the event.
- The booklets should be ordered a few weeks in advance of the event.
- Following the event, consider running a baby bottle or item drive to collect funds for pregnancy resource centers and maternity homes in your area. For every \$500 collected, the Supreme Council will donate an additional \$100, up to \$400 for \$2,000 donated (visit kofc.org/asap for details). Holy Hour for Life with Our Lady of Guadalupe Faith in Action Life
- Invite Catholic men attending the event to join the Order:
- On the day of the event, wear Knights of Columbus-branded apparel and have the council membership director set up a table with brochures and membership documents (including Prospect Cards #921A).
- Encourage men to join at the event using the kofc.org/join website on their phone.
- A Knight should open or close the event and share information about the Order.
- Enlist a fellow Knight or community member to photograph the event.
- To gain credit for your program, complete the associated reporting forms.
- Immediately after your event is finished, complete the Fraternal Programs Report Form (#10784)
- At the end of the fraternal year, complete the Columbian Award Application (#SP-7)

Resources:

1. #11887 - Holy Hour for Life Booklet
2. #11889 - Vertical Poster
3. #11888 - Horizontal Poster
4. #11923 - Holy Hour for Life Prayer Card

Images and a replica tilma of Our Lady of Guadalupe are available on Supplies Online.

The Gospel of Life

The Gospel of Life program calls upon councils to educate their members and wider parish communities on the sanctity of life from conception to natural death. To do so, councils can study the teachings of the Church, promote other informational resources and organize events featuring pro-life speakers. Councils can also use the Knights of Columbus Evangelium Vitae Study Guide (#614) to study St. John Paul II's historical encyclical and lead discussion groups or incorporate prayer campaigns into their efforts. By learning important truths about human life and sharing them with others, councils can help spread awareness of pro-life issues, save lives and strengthen families.

Featured Program Requirements: For two program credits toward the Columbian Award – Organize a study group using the Gospel of Life Study Guide (#614) or organize an event featuring a pro-life speaker. Report activity using the Fraternal Programs Report Form (#10784).

- Working with the pastor, develop a strategy to educate others on pro-life issues in the parish and community.
- While the program can take place at any time of the year, consider the weeks preceding national, state or local marches for life, during 40 Days for Life and Life Chain campaigns, and during Respect Life
- Month (October, United States), National Family and Life Week (varies in May, Canada) and the International Day for the Unborn Child (March 25).
- Consider the following ways to educate those in your parish community:
 - Organize a study group to meet and discuss the encyclical Evangelium Vitae using the Gospel of Life Study Guide (#614) from the Cor Ecclesiae series.
 - Invite speakers to give a talk at the parish about a pro-life topic.
 - Setup a table or bulletin board with materials highlighting ways to support pro-life ministries as well as the Order's other pro-life programs. You can also hand out educational brochures or booklets including the booklet entitled The Fifth Commandment: Moral Issues of Life and Death (#127).
 - Partner with other organizations to host pro-life and pro-family conferences and other educational events.
 - Launch prayer campaigns, such as a 40 Days for Life, Life Chain, or the 9 Days for Life Novena, to advance the pro-life cause through prayer while educating others.

- Build public interest for the program! Promote the Gospel of Life program through a variety of efforts:
- Prominently display promotional posters at the high-traffic areas of the parish.
- Post a signup sheet in the parish hall or create a QR code with registration.

Resources

1. #614 - The Gospel of Life Study Guide
2. #127 - The Fifth Commandment: Moral Issues of Life and Death
3. #4237 - Gospel of Life Prayer Card
4. #11915 - Gospel of Life Brochure

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.

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.
- 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 supporting PHO's 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 the number of desired English and 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**

This is an excellent way to raise Culture of Life funds for your council to support pro-life efforts in your area.

Buck-A-Month Club:

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. 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 – Send a check for all funds, 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-6th 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. **No computer or AI generated entries.**
- 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.
- NOMINATIONS FOR THESE AWARDS ARE DUE TO THE CULTURE OF LIFE DIRECTORS NO LATER THAN **MARCH 1, 2027.**

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 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 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 over 1,000 frozen turkeys and fixins to 16 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 tool.



Craig and his wife, Lu, have been married 51 years and have 4 children and 11 grandchildren. He owns a digital printing business that services charitable organizations and faith-based businesses.

COMMENTS MOST HEARD FROM GRAND KNIGHTS

- 1) I need to concentrate on finding more new members.
- 2) I need to stay in touch with "non-participating" members and get them involved.
- 3) I don't have time to put a good publicity plan together.
- 4) We don't like to "toot our own horn".

COMMENTS MOST HEARD FROM PARISHIONERS & COUNCIL KNIGHTS

- 1) As a parishioner, I don't really know that much about the Knights.
- 2) Nobody has ever asked me to join.
- 3) I can't make the meetings but I'm a member of this council and really don't know all the projects we do.

GOOD PUBLICITY WILL YIELD YOUR COUNCIL RESULTS

It's not rocket science and it doesn't need to take a lot of time to let good publicity efforts work for the success of your council. Just listen to these successful Grand Knights. Previous publicity award winner & past Grand Knight John Navarro of council 2681 Scottsbluff 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."

Scott Hahn, council 15101 Omaha said "We're only 60 members total so we need as much help and recognition of our events. We don't consider our publicity efforts as 'tooting our own horn', it's all about more people finding out about the Knights and the work we do...and once they associate our face and name with all these things we do...it sticks in their minds."

Edward Ferrante council 11879 Bellevue told us "Our publicity efforts are not tooting our own horn – they are all about sharing who we are and what we do. That makes it easier to focus on telling potential members to 'find your one thing' in one of the things we do that interests you. Our regular publicity communication clearly shows people we are the right arm of the church and here's the charitable organizations we do each project for.

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 vs just continually just asking him to join.

But I don't have time to put a publicity plan together

As a Grand Knight you may feel you are so busy running your council and events that you aren't really thinking about taking 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 Members, Parishioners and Community) need to know about your programs/events to even want to think about supporting your efforts. Success is in the simplicity of publicity: PLAN IT, PRESENT IT, FOLLOW UP.

PRE-EVENT PLANNING & COMMUNICATION

- Utilize a monthly calendar to plot out dates for not only all events, but publicity announcements as well.
- 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.

PRE & POST EVENT MESSAGING

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

- Name of event
- Date/time
- 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 (Our goal is to collect 1,000 diapers for the women's shelter)

During the event have someone take photos. 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, such as Knights of Columbus Council 11111 – Faith in Action.

With just these simple 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 efforts and can be used very effectively in Facebook and social media announcements, on your website, in council brochures and in parish and 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.
- Close ups of action & faces are much better than shots further away or of people's backs.
- Be sure the photos are in focus and have sufficient lighting. Photo with darker faces are not engaging.

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. A couple of the easiest to initiate and utilize regularly would be bulletin announcements and monthly council newsletters. These take a minimal amount of time once you have templates established. Having council members wearing council shirts to Mass etc., is also very effective. It is best to utilize more than one form of publicity, but not all councils have the manpower to do so. What is important is to utilize at least one form consistently 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 Large Banner recap of the past year with Council Accomplishments**
- **Council Shirts/Jackets/Wearables**
- **Council Website**
- **Social Media – Facebook, Twitter, Instagram**

PUBLICITY FOCUS

This fraternal year, the focus of our publicity efforts will 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.

AROUND THE STATE

We have reserved a section on our state website www.nebraskakofc.org titled “Around the State” to highlight the many great projects councils around the state are doing. This year we are making it extremely easy to do so, simply click on the QR Code which will take you to a page on our website that is specifically for your event info AND most importantly... it is easy for you to fill out and submit. Throughout the year as you complete projects/events, we ask you to email us (pr@kofcne.com) or click on the QR Code and give us details. We will review, edit and post accordingly so we can share ideas amongst councils. 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 2026/27 FRATERNAL YEAR

You don't enter our events just to win awards or get a pat on the back. You enter because in winning these awards, it creates pride in your council member base in what they are doing AND showcases the many charitable works you are doing for your parishioners and community. Specifically, awards can create a great interest in other catholic gentlemen to join your council 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). 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, 2027

A fillable PDF form is available on our state website: 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, 2027. You may also submit items not included on the publicity list for possible inclusion. To be eligible for points, you must send samples and requested documentation of any of the items listed. Send to:

Craig Vavak, Publicity Chairman

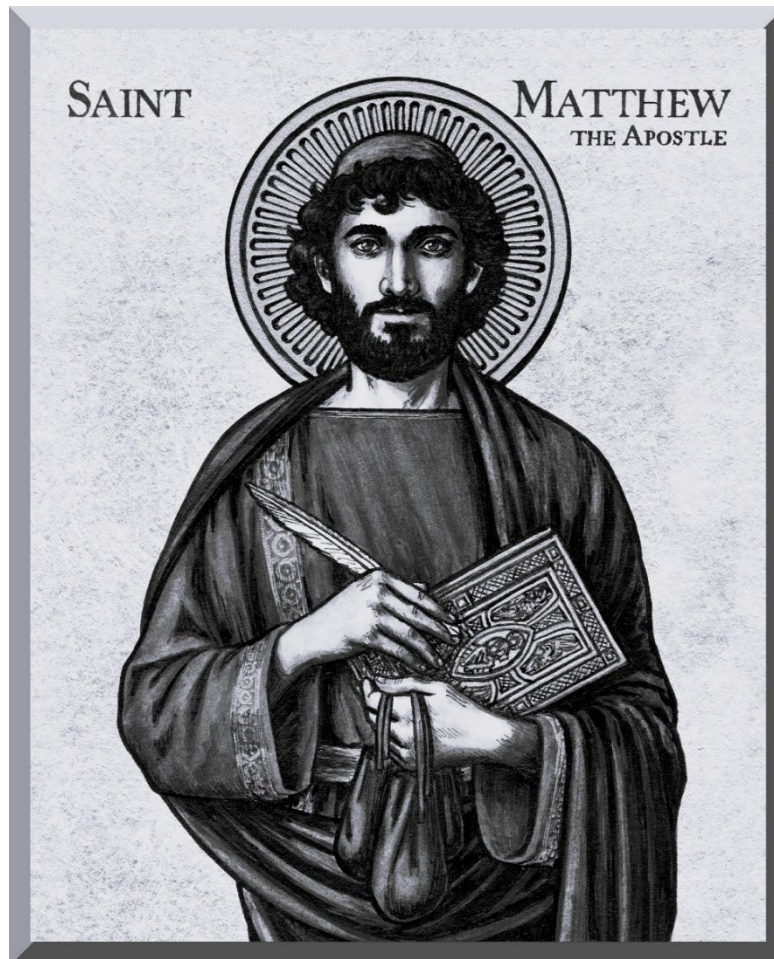
16629 Olive St., Omaha, NE 68136

pr@kofcne.com * 402-690-0639

Points are used only to help determine Publicity Awards.

3 DIFFERENT POSSIBLE AWARDS THIS YEAR

- **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.



PUBLICITY AWARD FORM (submit one form 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 15 points**
Must include a copy, name of newspaper, 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, media name. 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, vehicle 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 within 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 or reference to QR code link completed and turned in _____
- ☐ **Parish Bulletin - Knights of Columbus Announcements 10 points**
Mail/Email a copy. All points are given per KofC 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 Faithful Navigator. 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 thirteen years. They have three sons, Tommy (who will turn eight in September), Charlie (who will turn five in July), and Ollie (who will turn four in January). Sammi and Stephen are both involved with the Boy Scouts of America in the Cornhusker Council where they have both received the Silver Beaver award which is the highest volunteer honor a council can give.

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: 2026 Campaign for People with Intellectual Disabilities (formerly 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, 2027, 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, 2027. To be considered for the percentage gain awards, councils must have participated in the 2025 and 2026 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 2026 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 Ability Alliance, 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 Leadership Training Seminar in July or the state website www.nebraskakofc.org. You can also email the Intellectual Disabilities Directors Sammi and Stephen Lowery (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). You can also email the Intellectual Disabilities Directors Sammi and Stephen Lowery (sglowery82@gmail.com), call them at 402-540-1670, or contact your District Deputy. These forms are due with the money by January 31, 2027.

When is this year's drive?

October 11-17, 2027.

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, 2027.** 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) 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) 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, 2027**

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 works at the accounting firm Hancock & Dana. 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.

McGIVNEY FOUNDATION ADVISOR – RAY GUGGENBERGER, FDD, FXS

Ray Guggenberger has been a member of the Knights of Columbus since 1986 and belongs to Bellevue Council 6192. Ray is a retired Air Force First Sergeant, retiring in 1990. He has served in many different positions in his home council including Grand Knight. Ray started with the state council in 1988, serving as a coordinator for a fund raising campaign. He has served in different positions and for 27 years served as the Executive Secretary for the Nebraska State Council. He continues as our Prayer Line Coordinator which he started in 2002. Ray was our 2018 Nebraska Knight of the Year for his service to his community and local council. Ray is single and continues to reside in Bellevue.



PSD John Lukowski started our McGivney Foundation in December 2000. Ray was the first brother knight to enroll as a member of this foundation making a generous donation which continues to this day. He has served on the Board since that time and has a significant history of our foundation. Ray participates in several organizations in Bellevue including

the American Legion, VFW, DAV, Eagles, Bellevue Avenue of Flags and Air Force Sergeants Association. He recently stepped down as treasurer of the Sarpy County Crimestoppers Board. He is active in St. Mary's in Bellevue, serving as Chair of the Bldg. and Grounds Committee, usher and sacristan.

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 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 within 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 donations are used to fund the expenses of the foundation and, 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. He 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, he has held several officer positions, including Grand Knight, Faithful Captain, and Faithful Navigator, and he was an insurance agent with the Knights for 3 years. 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. Agnes's parish in Scottsbluff.



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. 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 – PATRICK DORITY

Patrick DORITY joined the Knights of Columbus in January of 2018 in Lincoln. By June of 2019 he became a 4th degree Knights and shortly after that he became the Family Director for MSGR. David R. Hintz Council. In July of 2020 he was elected as Chancellor of the Council while still serving as the Family Director. For the 2021-22 Fraternal year he was named the state Rookie of the Year and then in July 2022 he was chosen as Deputy Grand Knight and Program Director for his Council. After 9 months he became the Grand Knight as the previous Grand Knight moved out of state. Patrick helped the Council achieve Star Council for the 2023-24 and 2024-25 Fraternal years.



Patrick is married to Monica, who was very instrumental in him joining the Knights. If he would not have been asked and Monica not told him to join he would not be where he is in his faith as it has grown since joining the Knights. Patrick is an Acolyte at St. Patrick in Lincoln. In his free time he likes to bowl, watch football, baseball, and spend time with his family.

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 don't click the orange apply button, you will not gain access to the available tickets.
- **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 handle all the Eventbrite Registration for all three meetings, so the reservation / inquiries come to the State Event Coordinator Co-Chair and not to Mike Vaughn. Mike will pass all these reservations/ inquiries to us anyway, so cut out the middle man.
- **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 (you must enter your Council Number when selecting Council Officer / Member)
- **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. 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. The Courier newsletter went digital in 2025 and is sent electronically by the Executive Secretary to members' emails.



Her husband Dan is an advisor for the Nebraska Council McGivney Foundation, so she has been involved with the Nebraska Knights of Columbus at the state level for many years. She looks forward to receiving information about key projects and working with the various program directors, councils and assemblies to share the many activities being done by Nebraska Knights to benefit communities across the State. Please watch the Courier's Important Dates section for relevant deadlines..

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 12th 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 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 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

We put our money where our faith is.

We do not invest in companies that deal in abortions, pornography, human cloning, embryonic stem-cells or for-profit health care.



LIFE INSURANCE • DISABILITY INCOME INSURANCE • LONG-TERM CARE INSURANCE • RETIREMENT ANNUITIES



Neil Pfeifer, FICF
General Agent
402-379-0180
neil.pfeifer@kofc.org



Craig Pfeifer, CLU, ChFC, FSCP
Assistant General Agent
402-992-1156
craig.pfeifer@kofc.org



Jeremy Borchers, FICF
Assistant General Agent
402-750-4775
jeremy.borchers@kofc.org



Tony Swanson, FICF
General Agent
402-463-2845
anthony.swanson@kofc.org



Ian Johnstone, FICF, CLU, CLTC
Assistant General Agent
402-676-3506
ian.johnstone@kofc.org



**Knights of
Columbus®**

© Knights of Columbus, 1 Columbus Plaza, New Haven, CT 06510

“HELP DESK” CONTACT INFORMATION

<u>Mike Schaeffer – State Deputy</u>	402-651-9840	schaef5252@gmail.com
Fr. Bill Cremers – State Chaplain	402-606-8649.....	bjcremers@archomaha.org
Don Hypse – State Secretary	402-369-0814.....	hypse2729@gmail.com
Brian Hamik – State Treasurer	402-841-2605.....	hamik2931@gmail.com
Jim Korth – State Advocate	308-530-5196.....	jrk@rkslawoffice.com
Mitchell Lowery – State Warden.....	402-540-1021.....	mwlowerykc@gmail.com
Robert Wolf, IPSD & Vocations Director.....	308-631-6170.....	bbwolf1955@gmail.com
Tom Kato, PSD (Arizona) – Supreme Regional Growth Director.....	475-227-7699.....	thomas.kato@kofc.org
<u>Mike Vaughn – Executive Secretary</u>	402-297-5434	kofcmvaughn@gmail.com
Mark Borytsky, PSD – District Master & Community Director	402-212-9612.....	mborytsky@cox.net
<u>Kevin Ostdiek – Program Director</u>	402-613-1381	kevinostdiekkofc@gmail.com
Jesse Hines – Assistant Program Director	615-587-4694.....	jesse.hines86@gmail.com
<u>Richard Lowery, PSD, FDM – EFF Director</u>	402-432-6748	rwlowerykc@gmail.com
Rev. Justin Fulton, FSC – Associate EFF Director (or Chaplain)	402-729-2058.....	fr.justin-fulton@lincolndiocese.org
Mark & Julie Main – Faith Directors.....	402-416-6458.....	markmain65@gmail.com
Joe Bober – Athletics/Special Event Coordinator.....	402-290-7954.....	bojober@cox.net
Mary & Mike Conrad, FSD, PSD – Life Directors.....	402-779-9913.....	mconrad64@gmail.com
Sammi & Stephen Lowery – Intellectual Disabilities Directors ...	402-540-1670.....	sglowery82@gmail.com
Michael & Beth Esselstein – Family Directors	308-631-9711.....	mbesselsteinkofc@gmail.com
Gary Groteluschen – Youth Chairman	402-750-8747.....	garykoc12086@gmail.com
Joseph Kaup – FS Coordinator Chairman	402-340-9875.....	kaupjoseph@gmail.com
Beth Wells – Courier Editor	402-390-9873.....	nebrknightscourier@gmail.com
Craig Vavak – Publicity Chairman.....	402-690-0639.....	pr@kofcne.com
Pat Rupp – Event Coordinator Co-Chairman.....	402-850-1642.....	prupp8@gmail.com
Patrick Dority – Event Coordinator Co-Chairman.....	402-326-3872.....	bowler224@hotmail.com
Don Ferneding, PSD, FDM – Foundation Advisor	402-943-6320.....	don.ferneding@gmail.com
Dan Wells – Foundation Advisor.....	402-880-2586.....	danielwells5@gmail.com
Ray Guggenberger – Foundation Advisor & Prayer Chain.....	402-681-6572.....	rguggenberger@cox.net
Frank Pribyl – IT/Production.....	316-313-4414.....	frank@pribyls.com
Andrew Ostdiek – IT/Production	402-604-5576.....	andrew.ostdiek@gmail.com
Mark Borytsky Jr. – Social Media/IT Support	402-739-2893	nekofcsocialmedia@gmail.com
<u>Rob Ostdiek – Membership Director & E-Membership</u>	402-806-8552	rob.ostdiek1989@gmail.com
John Franssen – Region 1 Growth Director.....	402-389-0087.....	jfranssen123@gmail.com
Greg Jochum – Region 2 Growth Director	402-270-2653.....	gjochum18@gmail.com
Ken Prokop – Region 3 Growth Director.....	402-369-0471.....	sprokop@live.com
Mitch O’Neill – Region 4 Growth Director	308-440-3330.....	mitch.oneill@nebraska.edu
Kent Lorens – Region 5 Growth Director	308-737-0085.....	klmlstrane@hotmail.com
Justin Hartman – Region 6 Growth Director	402-332-0291.....	justinhartman1201@gmail.com
Michael Howick, Sr. – Region 7 Growth Director	402-714-3180.....	michael.howick@gmail.com
Bob Hasiak – Region 8 Growth Director	402-689-1721.....	rshasiak@cox.net
Iggy Cervantes – Hispanic Council Growth Coordinator	402-871-6919.....	iggykofc.@gmail.com
David Diaz – Hispanic Council Growth Coordinator.....	402-954-0455.....	d.diaz_03@hotmail.com
<u>Tony Swanson – General Agent</u>	402-463-2845	anthony.swanson@kofc.org
Ian Johnstone – Assistant General Agent	402-676-3506.....	ian.johnstone@kofc.org
<u>Neil Pfeifer – General Agent</u>	402-379-0180	neil.pfeifer@kofc.org
Craig Pfeifer – Assistant General Agent.....	402-992-1156.....	craig.pfeifer@kofc.org
Jeremy Borchers – Assistant General Agent	402-750-4775.....	jeremy.borchers@kofc.org