



# KNIGHTS COURIER



NE KofC Newsletter  
June 2026 Vol. 54 Issue 2

State Deputy  
Michael "Schaeff" Schaeffer

## First-Class Mexican Martyrs Relics on Tour in Eastern Nebraska

Nebraska Knights, their families and all the faithful are invited to take part in a special spiritual opportunity recognizing several Mexican Martyrs, including six Catholic priests who were members of the Knights of Columbus.

This tour, which includes three Catholic churches in Eastern Nebraska, June 9th-14th, is a profound reminder of the courage it takes to live one's faith without compromise. The witness of the Mexican Martyrs continues to inspire believers today to stand firm in faith, charity, and love for Christ and His Church.

Among the martyrs honored during this tour are six Catholic priests who were members of the Knights of Columbus. These men were executed

during the Cristero War (1926-1929), a time when the Mexican government enforced severe anti-Catholic laws that outlawed public worship and persecuted clergy and lay faithful alike.

Despite grave danger, these priests continued to celebrate the sacraments and minister to their communities. Their faithfulness ultimately led to their martyrdom. In recognition of their heroic witness, all six were canonized saints by Pope Saint John Paul II on May 21, 2000.

The six Knights of Columbus Mexican Martyrs are: Saint Luis Batis Sáinz, Saint Rodrigo Aguilar Alemán,



Saint Miguel de la Mora de la Mora, Saint Pedro de Jesús Maldonado Lucero, Saint José María Robles Hurtado and Saint Mateo Correa Magallanes.

Their lives reflect the core values of the Knights of Columbus: faith, charity, unity, and fraternity lived to the ultimate sacrifice.

The Relics of the Mexican Martyrs are scheduled to be available for viewing at several Catholic churches in Nebraska. These include the parish of Divine Mercy in Schuyler on June 9th; Our Lady of Guadalupe in Omaha on Wednesday, June 10th; Cristo Rey in Lincoln on Thursday, June 11th, and at St. Peter's in Omaha on Friday, June 12th - 14th.

Other possible locations may be determined. This relic tour offers Catholics

the chance to venerate sacred relics honoring men who gave their lives in defense of religious freedom and fidelity to Christ.

The relic tour will include opportunities for public veneration, Mass, and prayer services, allowing parishioners and visitors alike to reflect on the powerful witness of faith shown by the Mexican Martyrs during one of the most difficult periods in the Church's history.

Sponsored by the Nebraska Knights of Columbus and the Pfeifer and Swanson Agencies.

## Summertime Commitment

Hello, and happy (almost) summer! As we rejoice in all that God continues to do for our Order and Church, we continue to trust in Him for further direction and inspiration. Many thanks to all who assisted with and attended the State Convention! I'm writing this just a few days after the convention, and it was truly a blessed time. I greatly appreciated the many conversations with Knights from across Nebraska, and I want to thank you again for welcoming me so well as State Chaplain over the last year.

In many ways, the convention offered a glimpse of the great hope stirring within our Church. Many noted that the number of converts to the faith has grown substantially in many of our churches, and, as Knights, we are growing in the culture of invitation to accompany our new Catholics. The convention provided a very positive atmosphere as councils, families, chaplains, and projects were honored through awards, recognition, and gratitude. The business meetings went very smoothly, and we were blessed to have bishops from all three of our dioceses!

Many people were very inspired by Fr. Michael Voithofer's family program as he spoke about God's call for us to live fully in our identity as sons and daughters of God. He noted the great temptation to try to live on our own energy, performance, and strength, rather than on what God gives. We so often think that we need to "earn" God's love or our identity as His children, but the great news is that He already loves us infinitely and gives us our true identity in His love! Fr. Michael prayed that we would be filled with the

Spirit as we continue our mission as Knights, and we could certainly sense the power of this prayer! (For more on this topic, I'd recommend the book *Healing the Orphan Spirit* by Leif Hetland, where the "three chairs" teaching is more fully explained. Fr. Voithofer also leads Ablaze Ministries in Omaha and works with Encounter Ministries. More resources can be found on those websites and in his book *Awakening to More*).

As we enter this summertime, I ask all of us to recommit ourselves to living in our true identity as God's children and ambassadors. We can do this daily by praying with scripture, taking time for silent contemplation, sharing our prayer with our families and brother Knights, and remaining devoted to the sacraments. When we do this, we will find ourselves continually inspired by the next steps of invitation, mission, and service. Our Cor gatherings can provide tremendous inspiration for this as well. As Damien O'Connor mentioned repeatedly, we ask all our councils to implement Cor in whatever way is the best. These times of brotherhood and prayer are invaluable for personal and fraternal growth.

Be assured of my prayers for all of you, and I look forward to seeing how the Lord leads us in this new season! Vivat Jesus!

Fr. Bill Cremers  
State Chaplain, Omaha Archdiocese  
bjcremers@archomaha.org



## Sir Knight - More than a Title



We know Assemblies and Councils form the backbone of the Knights of Columbus. Working together, they support the needs of their parishes and communities in ways that reflect the principles of the Order. When a Council and Assembly collaborate, they can transform a congregation and town through meaningful programs and charitable action.

Knights of Columbus programs are designed to engage Catholic men and their families, inviting them to grow in faith, service, and fraternity. These programs help men become Knights, and Knights become Sir Knights in the 4th Degree.

The Patriotic Degree "Patriotism" calls Knights to take this commitment one step further. "Sir Knight" is more than a title—it is an honor for the 4th Degree to remain steadfast in their dedication to their parish, community, and family through charitable works, fraternity, and a strong witness to the Catholic faith. Take that step and join the highest degree in the Knights of Columbus by becoming a 4th Degree "Sir Knight."

### Upcoming Reports on our State Website:

- Civic Award Application - Due 6/30
- RSVP Refund and Plaque Application for Assemblies - 6/30
- Report of Officers Chosen for the Term - Due 7/1
- Annual Assembly Audit Report - Due 8/1

Brothers, Let's challenge ourselves to bring more Catholic men and families into our Order — men who are looking for purpose, fellowship, and a way to live their faith boldly. And let's encourage our 3rd Degree Knights to take the next step into the 4th Degree, embracing the principle of Patriotism. Together, we can be "One State-One Knight."  
God Bless,

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



## Continuing to Build a "Culture of Invitation"

Worthy Brother Knights,

Our 121st State Convention was a huge success. During the Friday night Awards Banquet, attended by Bishops from all three Nebraska dioceses, we gave out 111 awards to 61 Councils. Saturday morning featured Adoration, followed by Fr. Michael Voithofer from Ablaze House of Prayer who led an energizing Family Program. Next we honored both the runner up and Family of the Year. Shelly's Ladies Program featured a panel from the Cloisters on the Platte. Following the Saturday Business meeting, we attended Mass and enjoyed the State Banquet. The weekend ended with our annual State Business meeting Sunday morning.

When I became State Deputy last July, I had three overarching goals for our Jurisdiction: 1.) increase support of Seminarians and those seeking Religious Life; 2.) grow our Order's membership; and 3.) expand our charitable outreach. During this fraternal year, I've been amazed to see how we are working together to meet these goals.

We are increasing our support of Seminarians and Religious Life by introducing and implementing Cor at the parish level, where parish laymen seek to assist men yearning to grow in their Faith. Another extraordinary year of donations to our State Lottery for Vocations allowed a Christmas and Easter gift to our 56 Seminarians, as well as a Christmas gift to our seven Bishops.

We are growing our membership through a joint effort with our General Agents and Field Agents. We know that our highly-rated insurance and fraternal benefits are what every Catholic man and his family needs. In April, I announced that we had surpassed 27,000 Nebraska Knights. Through the efforts started under IPSD Wolf, we now have

a new Hispanic Council in Nebraska, Cristo Rey Council 18817 in Lincoln. This historic achievement was due to the hard work of many Brother Knights.

This fraternal year, our Council Programs and charitable outreach have been phenomenal. The Coats for Kids Drive was held in all three dioceses on the same day for the second year in a row. We gave away over 1,500 coats. We supported Special Olympics this year with members of the State Team participating in the February Polar Plunge, and based upon the number of Councils who submitted a Form 10784 for Special Olympics, Supreme sent our Jurisdiction a check for \$2,100 to Special Olympics Nebraska.

I want to thank the wives and families of our Knights, and especially my wife Shelly, for allowing their Knight to be a beacon of faith for our Jurisdiction. Thanks also go to State Chaplain Fr. Bill Cremers, the District Deputies, Grand Knights, and Financial Secretaries who are my "boots on the ground" and the engine that makes our Jurisdiction run.

During the rest of this fraternal year, we will continue building a "Culture of Invitation" by Evangelizing Our Family and Community.

In closing, I am excited to share Nebraska will host the Mexican Martyr Relics from June 9-14. Thanks for all you do. I am blessed to call you all Brother Knights. See you in Kearney, July 10-12.

Vivat Jesus,  
Mike "Schaeff" Schaeffer  
State Deputy  
schaeff5252@gmail.com



## Legislative Corner - Never Too Early

When it's June, it can feel too early to talk about November. But it's not. After all, time is a thief and future dates that seem like an eternity away hit us before we know it.

On November 3rd, the mid-term general elections will be upon us. And while November 3rd is Election Day, Election Day is no longer about a particular day. With early voting, eligible voters have nearly a month to cast an early ballot. During the 2024 general election, around 35% of Nebraskans voted early.

When we had the abortion-related ballot initiatives in 2024, we were told by campaign experts that a decent chunk of voters would have their minds made up on these ballot issues by Labor Day.

So, why am I rambling about dates?

My point: it's never too early to be a faithful citizen, that is, somebody who takes seriously their obligations as a Catholic and their obligations as an active member of our political processes, especially elections.

It's important that we start talking to family, friends,

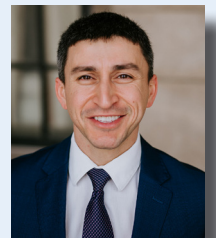
fellow parishioners, and others about the need to vote and, more importantly, to let the values of our Catholic faith guide our voting.

If we think starting these conversations on November 2nd is going to bear much fruit, we should think again. Those conversations need to begin now and should be ongoing, charitable dialogues.

If you aren't sure where to begin or want to brush up on the issues that matter to us as Catholics, check out the United State Conference of Catholic Bishops' document, *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*. It's an easy, digestible summary of our faith applied to politics.

As worthy Knights, we're called to live out patriotism, and being engaged in the election process is a key way to live out this core principle. God bless!

Tom Venzor  
Executive Director  
Nebraska Catholic Conference



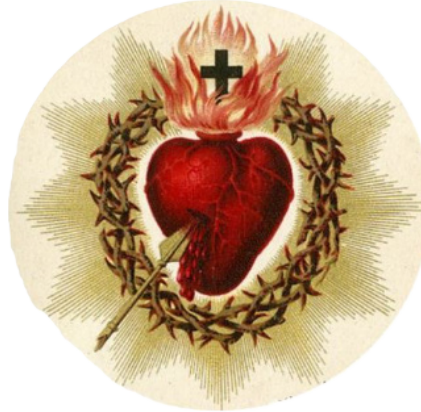


## The Good Shepherd and Pentecost

Recently we celebrated the 4th Sunday of Easter, formerly Good Shepherd Sunday. We heard in the Gospel that God knows his sheep and they know His voice. But how? How do we learn the voice of our Lord?

Prayer, formation, and fraternity. Each one of these disciplines helps us grow closer to our Lord. Through prayer we are able to build a relationship with our Lord. We talk with Him. We pour out our heart to Him, both in good times and in bad. We learn to listen to Him. Continuing formation helps us understand how God is a part of our life every day. Through knowledge of our faith we expand our capacity to open our hearts to not only God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, but to our fellow travelers on this journey through life here on earth. Finally, fraternity builds the bond of friendship and caring that allows us to see Christ in those we encounter on a daily basis.

Where can we learn more about these disciplines and grow in them? COR. Christ Centered Fellowship. This gathering of Christian men is designed to help strengthen prayer, expand our knowledge of the faith, and build relationships to help us celebrate the good times and weather the bad times that we all experience. We were not made to be alone. We



need others in our lives to support and strengthen us. We need to be that support for those we encounter on a daily basis. COR gatherings offer the opportunity to encounter Christ personally as well as in others, to learn more about our faith and how to live it in today's hectic world, and to build relationships that only grow stronger with time.

These benefits do not happen overnight. Just like the disciples who waited for the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, we need to wait, pray and learn so that we can experience

Christ's friendship and love for each of us. If you have not attended a COR gathering in your Parish, make an effort to do so soon. If your Parish does not have active COR gatherings, talk with your Council and your Pastor to get one started. The effort is minimal, but the fruits are abundant and will fill your basket to overflowing.

If you need help starting COR in your Parish, please contact me or our COR Chaplain, Fr. Justin Fulton for help. Vivat Jesus!

Richard Lowery, PSD, FDM  
Evangelization and Faith Formation Director  
rwlowerykc@gmail.com



## State Secretary Notes

Wow, what a State Convention we just had! I hope you were able to attend. If not, there is always next year. Mark your calendars now for April 23 - 25, 2027, at the Younes Conference Center in Kearney.

This was my first year working the delegate registration desk as State Secretary, and I had a blast. A big thank you goes out to my brother Knights who helped at the registration desk. It was fun getting to visit with you and getting to know you better. I was pleased to see many familiar faces checking in and to see some new faces as well. Connecting with brother Knights is one of the best things about convention. The conversations are filled with news of the good things that our Brothers, Councils, and Assemblies do across Nebraska. I'm already looking forward to next year's State Convention.

But before next year's convention, you should really consider participating in the Nebraska Knights of Columbus Leadership Seminar. It will be July 10-12, 2026, in Kearney. Be sure to check your email for registration information. The Leadership Seminar is an outstanding

opportunity for Grand Knights and Financial Secretaries to learn more about the duties of their offices, to ask questions one-on-one, and to receive the resources that will be used during the upcoming fraternal year.

And finally, I am excited to attend the Knights of Columbus Supreme Convention in Denver, CO, the first week of August. Nebraska will have 10 official delegates. These official delegates include: Mike Schaeffer, Bob Wolf, myself, Larry Koerner, Gary Gandara, Mitchell Lowery, Dan Humlicek, Jim Korth, Jimmy Pokorny and John Kavan. Father Bill Cremers will also be attending.

In addition, several brother Knights from Nebraska will be attending just to experience a Supreme Convention since Denver is close.

Vivat Jesus,

Don Hypse  
State Secretary  
402-369-0814  
hypse2729@gmail.com





# Nebraska Knights of Columbus

## State Golf Tournament

### Sunday September 27, 2026

### Four Person Scramble



Checkin opens at 7:00 a.m. Shotgun start at 8:00 a.m.

Eagle Hills Golf Course, 501 Eagle Hills Drive , Papillion, NE 68133.

**\$90.00 per golfer with foursomes encouraged. Open to any Catholic, age 18 and older.**  
**Men 65 and older shoot from seniors' tees; women shoot from red tees.**

Includes golf cart and steak dinner at the South Council Hall, 4323 Washington, Omaha, NE  
 Cocktails 12:30 p.m. Ribeye dinner 1:00 p.m.

Not golfing? Join us for drinks and dinner for just \$20.00 per person.

**Make checks to: Knights of Columbus**

**Mail reservation and check to**  
**Joe Bober**

**4070 I Street,                      Deadline Sept. 25, 2025**  
**Omaha, NE 68107                Questions? Call Joe 402-290-7954**

**Players in Foursome**

Name	Address	Phone	Parish

**Dinner only**


### Get the Word Out about the Knights' Good Works

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

We're on Facebook @NebraskaKofC, Instagram @kofc\_nebraska, and X @kofc\_nebraska. If you haven't followed us yet, Do Not Be Afraid. The pictures can be sent to Mark Botytsky, Jr.: nekofcsocialmedia@gmail.com.

### Join the Father McGivney Guild

Born Aug. 12, 1852  
 Died Aug. 14, 1890  
 Feast Day Aug. 13th

The Guild promotes the cause for sainthood of Father McGivney who founded the Knights of Columbus in 1882 at St. Mary's Church in New Haven, CT. He was a man of the people. He was zealous of the people's welfare, and all the kindness of his priestly soul asserted itself more strongly in his unceasing efforts for the betterment of their condition ...Oh, Reverend Founder. . .that act alone which gave life to the Knights of Columbus has surely secured for thee everlasting joy and eternal peace.

The cause for his canonization was opened in December 1997. He was beautified on October 31, 2020, with the first miracle attributed to him. A second approved miracle is needed for him to be canonized as a saint of the Catholic Church.

Let us pray. Report favors to the Guild Director.



Questions?

Ask Rod Hofschulte  
 402-510-7250 or  
 rhofschult@msn.com

Please complete your contact information to become a member of the Fr Michael McGivney Guild.

Title\_\_\_\_\_ First Name\_\_\_\_\_ Last name\_\_\_\_\_

Address\_\_\_\_\_ City\_\_\_\_\_ St\_\_\_\_\_ Zip\_\_\_\_\_

Email Address\_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number\_\_\_\_\_

To join the guild on-line go to: [www.FatherMcGivney.org](http://www.FatherMcGivney.org)  
 K of C Address: Father McGivney Guild, One Columbus Plaza, New Haven, CT 06510

## McGivney Foundation Update

Our sincerest appreciation and thanks to all the Brother Knights, Knights of Columbus Councils, 4th Degree Assemblies and the many others who have supported the McGivney Foundation during the past year.

During 2025, the McGivney Foundation has grown from \$826,748 as of January 1, 2025, to \$903,007 as of December 31, 2025. This is an increase of \$73,558. Your donations continue to grow our foundation. During 2025 the foundation donated over \$9,438 to organizations and individuals requesting financial assistance.

The 2026 annual convention was another success. The silent auction netted \$655 for the foundation, and we appreciate everyone's participation.

The Nebraska State Council McGivney Foundation is the collective effort of Brother Knights throughout Nebraska that provides charitable, monetary support to assist the most needy causes and people in Nebraska.

The Foundation consists of a principal endowment of donated funds never to be spent. It is the earnings from this endowment's principal that make it possible for the Knights to live our principle of charity by giving to causes and

people in dire need of assistance throughout our great State of Nebraska. As each of us knows, charity is the greatest of our four cardinal principles as Knights. This charitable giving, enabled by the McGivney Foundation, helps us to do the greatest amount of good for our Church and God's most precious children who are in severe need.

As all are aware, the Nebraska State Council McGivney Foundation was approved by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) organization qualified to receive tax deductible contributions on April 12, 2016. We are growing our relationship with the Knights of Columbus Asset Management to manage our principal endowed assets. By this relationship, our investments are managed with the utmost care and in the very best interests of our Catholic beliefs by following the USCCB's guidelines for investing.

As always, we are most grateful to all of you who have and are assisting the foundation with your generous contributions. Your future support remains deeply appreciated and vital to its success.

Don Ferneding 402-943-6920 | don.ferneding@gmail.com  
Dan Wells 402-880-2586 | danielwells5@gmail.com

### State Athletics Report

I hope everyone had a safe winter. The State Bowling Tournament was held on March 7th, 8th and 14th at Westbrook Lanes in Columbus. I want to thank John Eckholt for all his hard work to make this great event happen. We had 12 team entries, 12 doubles entries, 24 single entries and 26 all-events entries. The winners are listed at right.

The State Golf Tournament will be on September 27, 2026 at Eagle Hills Golf Course in Papillion, NE. We will use the same format as the last few years. Details on form in this Courier.

Thank you for all your support.

Vivat Jesus

Joe Bober  
State Athletic Chair  
Special Events Chairman



### Which Knights from Your Council Should Attend the Leadership Training Seminar?

Grand Knights | Financial Secretaries | Other Council Officers  
Deputy Grand Knights / Council Program Directors  
Council Evangelization | Faith Formation Coordinators  
Any Member interested in helping councils be successful!  
See page 9 for more information and how to register.

### 2026 State Bowling Winners

The State Bowling Tournament was held in Columbus on March 7th, 8th and 14, 2026. I would like to thank the team for hosting. It was well done! Results for each event follow.

#### 2026 Nebraska State Bowling Tournament Results

Place	HDCP	Bowlers Name
<b>All Events</b>		
1	2505	Ron Schrage
2	2490	Charlie Wozny
3	2368	Rod Zarek
<b>Teams</b>		
1	3092	12086 #2
2	2766	Madison Humphrey
3	2713	9264 #1
<b>Singles</b>		
1	859	Charlie Wozny
2	831	Ron Schrage
3	823	Rod Zarek
4	817	Joel Schumacher
5	783	Luke Beierman
6	740	Randy Birchem
<b>Doubles</b>		
1	1633	J. Schumacher/B. Wagener
2	1583	C. Wozny/T. Moore
3	1473	L. Beierman/T. Foltz

## Intellectual Disabilities Foundation "Helping People with Special Needs"

### Gear Up for the 2026-2027 Campaign for People with Intellectual Disabilities

As one fraternal year closes, we look forward to the start of the next year and the opportunities that are presented to us to hit a reset and evaluate how we want the next year to look.

One of the first opportunities our councils have to start strong is the Campaign for People with Intellectual Disabilities Drive. The 2025-2026 drive was a huge success, and we owe all of that to you and the hard work you put in. We saw another increase in collections over the previous year with nearly \$200,000 raised across Nebraska. We were able to redistribute this to amazing organizations across our great State and impacted many lives.

With our new fraternal year, we must start thinking now about the 2026-2027 Campaign for People with Intellectual Disabilities. The dates the State has selected for the drive this fall are October 11-17, 2026. As always, if these dates do not work for your council, please feel free to adjust them as needed.

The information packet for this year's drive will be distributed at the summer leadership meeting. Candy orders are due by August 1, 2026, to ensure delivery in time for the October drive.

Please be sure to use the new order form from 2024 to ensure that your order is accepted correctly. Ordering amounts and costs are the same as the last several years, so please start thinking now about how many cases you will need and working within your area and District to arrange larger orders to save on shipping costs.

As in previous years, ALL money collected and your report form must be turned in to the Intellectual Disabilities

Foundation Directors by January 31, 2027. Your council may request up to 50% of your funds collected to be sent back to qualifying organizations of your choice. All requests must be received in writing by June 30, 2027.

The Intellectual Disabilities foundation will be providing more information in the coming months related to other program activities such as Special Olympics and Project Lori, as well as sharing the stories of the organizations and people that we serve throughout Nebraska. Please be on the lookout for this information and share it with your council and community so we can highlight the good works that we do.

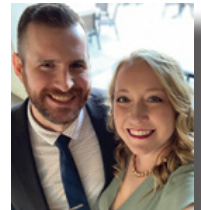
While the 2025-2026 drive was a huge success for the Intellectual Disabilities Foundation, we can always do better. For the 2026-2027 Campaign, we are hoping to raise over \$225,000. This will only be possible with the hard work and creative ideas of each of our councils.

If the candy distribution does not work for you, we are happy to help with new ideas to raise funds for this worthy cause. Reach out to the businesses in your community to see if they will let you promote your drive with them.

It is your hard work that will allow the Knights of Columbus in Nebraska to continue "Helping People with Special Needs!"

God Bless you and all your efforts!

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



## Mark Your Calendars for Youth 2026 Programs

Youth Programs for the 2026-2027 Fraternal Year are as follows:

- 1) State Soccer Challenge - State Competition will be Saturday, October 24, 2026, (Location to be determined).
- 2) Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest - Council Introductions to Parish Participants is November 30 -- December 9, 2026.

All entries should be collected by Councils by beginning of school Christmas break. Judging by Councils should be completed by December 31, 2026, with the top three entries in each category submitted to their respective District Deputies.

Complete timeline for all levels of competition will be

provided and discussed at the July 10-12 Leadership Conference.

- 3) State Free Throw Competition is Grand Island Central Catholic High School is April 10, 2027.

Share with your school-age family and friends!

Thank you for your support,

Gary Groteluschen  
State Youth Chairman  
garykofc12086@gmail.com



## Culture of Life Foundation

Brothers,

It was great seeing so many of you at the State Convention in April. For those of you who could not attend, we have some exciting news about the Culture of Life Foundation. We have rebranded the Foundation, and our new mission statement is:

*"The Culture of Life Foundation... A Promise of Faith, Hope and Love."*

This new statement truly reflects the direction the Foundation is taking in protecting the Sanctity of Life here in Nebraska.

### Ultrasound Machine Program

We also have exciting news regarding our Ultrasound Machine Program. We have now placed our 20th ultrasound machine here in Nebraska. In 2009, we placed the first machine at the Collage Center in Kearney, and on the Monday following Mother's Day, we placed the 20th machine at Pathways in Ogallala.

In addition, we are currently identifying locations for up to two more machines in the Omaha area.

What a great time for all of us faithful people to be doing so much for the culture of life, especially when there are many who support the culture of death. Please continue praying for this important program and for its continued success.

### How Can You Help a Pregnancy Health Organization (PHO)?

Many of us are aware of the 25 Pregnancy Health Organization (PHO) centers throughout Nebraska, and you may be wondering how you can assist these centers and the mothers and children they serve.

One way you can help is by supporting the Faith, Hope and Love Gala, sponsored by the Nebraska Knights of Columbus Culture of Life Foundation.

Mark your calendars for Friday, October 9th, at St. Robert Bellarmine in Omaha. This will be a wonderful opportunity for all of us to support this important cause while enjoying a memorable evening together.

Our featured speaker will be Kelly Lester. Kelly

shares her personal story to bring hope to even the most desperate situations, proving that God can save anybody. Her story has been featured on The 700 Club on CBN, and she is a regular contributor to OAN, Newsmax, and Fox News. She currently works in Outreach and Government Engagement for And Then There Were None and Pro-Love Ministries and serves as Director of Outreach for MAPS Global. You can learn more about Kelly and her personal journey at [AmbassadorSpeakers.com](http://AmbassadorSpeakers.com).

Our opening speaker will be Gracie Swartz, an Arizona State University student and Abortion Dialogue Academy (ADA) sidewalk counselor. Gracie developed her skills while working with the Nebraska-based ADA, where student scholars engage in one-on-one conversations and youth presentations to explain why abortion should be illegal.

A gala would not be complete without music. Omaha Christian singer and composer Hannah Keisling will provide musical entertainment for the evening. Hannah will perform traditional Christian music along with several of her original songs.

Please look for more information regarding tickets, sponsorship opportunities, and additional ways to support the Faith, Hope and Love Gala.

### Website

We are currently developing a new Culture of Life Foundation website. This website will help deliver important information and updates on pro-life activities both in Nebraska and across the nation.

Look for more details about this new website coming soon to your computer and fingertips.

Fraternally,

Mike and Mary Conrad  
Culture of Life Directors  
[mconrad@abbnebraska.com](mailto:mconrad@abbnebraska.com)



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

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

**Annual Leadership Training July 10-12, 2026**  
 Deadline, June 26th

The Seminar is scheduled for the weekend of July 10-12, 2026, in Kearney, NE.

Meetings for the Officers will begin Friday morning, while the District Deputies, Directors and Chairmen will meet Friday evening. Registration and meetings for Council Officers and other members will begin on Saturday morning, July 11th, and continue through Sunday, July 12th.

Times in the agenda below are tentative.

**LEADERSHIP SEMINAR REGISTRATION**  
 through EventBrite  
<https://nekc2026JulyTraining.eventbrite.com>

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

**RESERVATIONS**  
 308-237-5971  
 You must tell them you are with the Knights of Columbus to get the special rate.

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

**Nebraska Knights of Columbus**

**Grand Knight, Financial Secretary, and District Deputy Training Seminar**

**Friday, July 10, 2026**

- |                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| 3:45 - 5:15 PM  | Registration / Check-in                  |
| 5:30 - 6:45 PM  | State Family Dinner (All paid attendees) |
| 7:15 - 9:15 PM  | District Deputies Meeting                |
| 7:15 - 8:45 PM  | Program Directors/Chairmen               |
| 7:15 - 8:45 PM  | Membership Directors Meeting             |
| 7:15 - 8:45 PM  | Cor Directors Meeting                    |
| 8:30 - 11:30 PM | Hospitality Room                         |

**Saturday, July 11, 2026**

- |                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| 7:30 - 9:00 AM      | Registration / Check-in                           |
| 9:00 - 10:00 AM     | GK/DD Leadership Training (Cor)                   |
| 9:00 - 10:00 AM     | Financial Secretary Training                      |
| 10:00 - 11:00 AM    | Holy Hour of Adoration (All Attendees & Spouses)  |
| 11:00 - 11:30 AM    | GK/DD Leadership Training (Forms 101)             |
| 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM | Lunch on Your Own Unless Paid 4th Degree Lunch    |
| 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM | Working Lunch (4th Degree Meeting)                |
| 1:00 - 3:00 PM      | Ladies Program                                    |
| 1:00 - 4:00 PM      | Financial Secretary Training                      |
| 1:00 - 4:00 PM      | GK/DD Leadership Training (Programs & Membership) |
| 5:00 - 6:30 PM      | Mass, Installation-Officers and District Deputies |
| 6:30 - 7:00 PM      | Social Half Hour                                  |
| 7:00 - 8:30 PM      | Buffet Dinner                                     |
| 8:30 - 11:30 PM     | Hospitality Room                                  |

**Sunday, July 12, 2026**

- |                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| 7:15 - 8:00 AM  | Mass  |
| 8:30 - 11:00 AM | Financial Secretary Training (if needed)                        |
| 8:30 - 11:30 AM | GK/DD Leadership Training (Exec. Sec., Membership and Programs) |

**Ladies Program: Angels from Angels Spreading Christmas Cheer**



Join us for our Ladies Program as we come together to create beautiful Christmas angels. These handmade gifts will spread warmth and Christmas cheer when they are shared with residents of all four Nebraska veterans' homes this December. Come enjoy fellowship, creativity, and the joy of giving back. We'd love to have you with us!

We will gather July 11th from 1-3 p.m. at Kearney's Holiday Inn. It's a great opportunity to meet others.

Pre-registration by June 26th is appreciated to ensure materials are available for everyone interested. The EventBrite link above includes this option. Hope you can join us!

## FAMILY OF THE YEAR AND RUNNER UP 2026

### 2026 Nebraska Family of the Year

For their enduring leadership, sacrificial generosity, and unwavering witness to Catholic family life, the Greg and Barb Bonifas family of Council 8010 in Aurora is most deserving of recognition as the 2026 Nebraska State Knights of Columbus Family of the Year. They are, in every sense, a model Catholic family and a blessing to their council, their parish, and their community.

For nearly three decades, the Bonifas family has quietly and faithfully built up the Church, strengthened Council 8010, and lived the principles of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity in a way that makes them a clear model family. Their lives are not simply one of participation, but of leadership, sacrifice, and faithfulness.

Greg has served as Grand Knight, Financial Secretary and many other offices. He hosts and/or provides meals for a couple of

monthly business meetings at his agricultural warehouse throughout the year. At St. Mary's Parish, Greg serves as an acolyte and the Parish Council's building and maintenance representative. He frequently undertakes projects himself and generously donates his time, materials, and equipment to meet parish needs. Much of his work is done quietly and without fanfare, but its impact is lasting and greatly appreciated.

Barb's faithful service complements Greg's leadership. As a reader and active member of the Altar Society, she contributes to the liturgical and spiritual life of the parish. She has served as CCD Coordinator, helping form the faith of our parish youth. Most notably this past year, she helped organize the inaugural *Gratitude* adult social event, which raised \$4,000 for pro-life causes – an initiative that demonstrated both her leadership and her deep commitment to the dignity of life.

The fruits of Greg and Barb's example are evident in their children. Grant and Blaine joined the Knights this fraternal year, continuing their father's service legacy. They often assist their dad with building and grounds projects at the church. Their daughter Morgan remains engaged in her faith at the UNL Newman Center, attending Steubenville and SEEK conferences.

The Bonifas family does more than volunteer. They live their vocation as a domestic church. Their commitment to faith formation, parish life, pro-life efforts, and fraternal leadership reflects a family rooted in Christ and dedicated to serving others.



*Mike and Beth Esselstein (left) and Shelly and Mike Schaeffer (right) present Greg and Barb Bonifas (above) and Brad Schmidt (right) with Family of the Year and Runner-Up Awards.*

### 2026 Nebraska Family of the Year Runner-Up

The Brad and Vanessa Schmidt family does not simply serve their parish. They strengthen the Church. This is why they were chosen as the 2026 Nebraska Knights of Columbus Family of the Year Runner-Up.

Brad, a third- and fourth-degree knight, has faithfully served the St. Elizabeth Ann Council 9771 in Omaha for nine years, answering every call to leadership, serving as Advocate, Warden, Chancellor, Faithful Captain, Program Director for the Youth and Founders Scholarship Trustee.

His leadership has not gone unnoticed. In recognition of his commitment and credibility within the order, Brad was selected as a delegate to represent Nebraska at the Supreme Convention in August 2025 in Washington DC. His wife Vanessa proudly attended alongside him. This distinction reflects both the trust placed in him and the strength of their shared commitment to the mission of the Knights.

For the Schmidt family, leadership is about formation.

He directs the parish's annual picnic, one of the community's largest events of the year carefully coordinating volunteers, logistics, and operations. He is a primary recruiter for the council and



as a dedicated member of the ceremonial degree team, mentoring and forming new knights.

Together, Brad and Vanessa are instructors and mentors in the parish's OCIA program, providing personal witness, accompaniment, and encouragement as candidates prepare to receive the Sacraments.

That same spirit of mentorship is found in their coaching youth athletics where they invest countless hours developing athletic skills, character, discipline, teamwork, and respect. They model servant leadership on the field, as well as in the parish.

At home, they are the proud parents of five children, Ava, Peter, Warner, Lizzy, and Bridget. They are joyful and visible presence at parish events and service projects including pancake breakfasts, fish fries, parish picnics, local shelters, and charitable drives. The Schmidt family is always the first to volunteer and the last to leave. Their dedication and hard work inspire all. The Schmidt family lives the principles of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity daily through faith formation, servant leadership, mentorship, and joyful example.



# 121ST ANNUAL STATE CONVENTION WONDERFUL EXCITING WRAP-UP

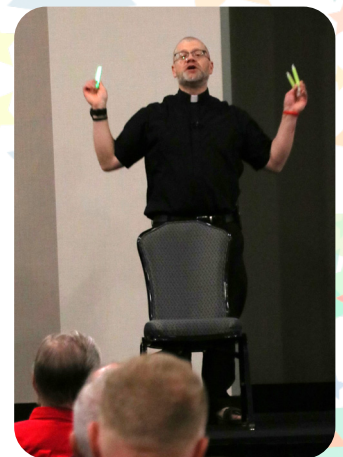
Kevin Ostdiek, State Program Director | 402-613-1381 cell | kevinostdiekkofc@gmail.com

The 121st Annual Convention for the State of Nebraska took place over the weekend of April 24th through 26th at the Younes Convention Center – South in Kearney. Delegates and attendees enjoyed a weekend of fun spiritual enrichment, while meeting to direct the State’s endeavors for next year.

Friday night was centered around the Annual Awards Banquet. Sixty-one councils were honored, and 111 awards were given to celebrate the great works, amazing projects and incredible people that make up every one of our Nebraska councils. This year 29 councils achieved either Bronze, Silver or Gold status in the Inter-Council Competition (ICC). Eleven of those councils achieved Gold status, including Council 18817, Saint San Jose Sanchez Del Rio, our newest council from Cristo Rey Parish, Lincoln.



Knights and their families enjoy fellowship. Below: SD Schaefer and DD David Varney celebrate with SJPII Newman Center Council for being 2nd in the State for Membership increase.



Saturday morning was marked by an hour of Adoration with the Blessed Sacrament. Confession was available for all attendees. An enthusiastic and energetic presentation was given by Fr. Michael Voithofer (above right), a priest in the Archdiocese of Omaha and founder and president of the Ablaze House of Prayer.

The State’s Family of the Year Luncheon followed. Greg and Barb Bonifas from Aurora were honored as

Continued on page 14.



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

121ST ANNUAL  
STATE CONVENTION  
APRIL 24-26, 2026  
AWARD PRESENTATIONS



Award recipients with State Deputy Mike "Schaefer" Schaeffer and his wife, Shelly, from top left clockwise: Shawn Wilke, GK Bill Bohan for Daniel Rubin Chris Gries and Jesse Hines.

Center: Rookie Knight of the Year, Andrew Niehaus, followed by Runner Up, Michael Macholin. Below center of page: Chaplain of the Year Runner Up, Fr. Matthew Nash. Right: Chaplain of the Year, Fr. Mark Seiker.

**Publicity, Top Overall Council**

Div 1	1st	#10163	St. Joseph, Benkelman/Stratton
Div 2	1st	#12687	Fr. Robert Foster Jubilee, Elm Creek
Div 3	1st	#10184	Fr. Clement Bracht, Omaha
Div 4	1st	# 1966	Fr. Shine, Plattsmouth
Div 5	1st	# 6192	Columban, Bellevue

**Publicity, Best Council Event**

1st	# 1833	Pope John Paul II, Wahoo
2nd	#14077	St. Charles Borromeo, Omaha

**Award of Excellence**

Equal	#15101	St. Pius X, Omaha
Equal	#2681	Fr. Timothy P. Molony, Scottsbluff
Equal	#11879	St. Matthew, Bellevue

<b>Life, Supreme Service Award</b>	# 4633	St. Nicholas, Valentine
<b>Life, State Service Award</b>	#10795	St. Vincent DePaul, Omaha

**Culture of Life Art Contest**

1st	Sarah Hausmann	# 3720	Rev. W. W. Kroupa Spencer
2nd	Caroline Leuschen	#10160	St. Stephen the Martyr, Omaha
3rd	Joseph Harriger	#10909	St. Wenceslaus, Omaha

**One Rose - One Life**

Div 1	1st	#18817	St. San Jose Sanchez Del Rio, Lincoln
Div 2	1st	# 3720	Rev. W. W. Kroupa, Spencer
Div 3	1st	# 4707	St. Joseph, Atkinson
Div 4	1st	# 1126	Fr. Trayer, McCook
Div 5	1st	#10108	St. Robert Bellarmine, Omaha

Div 1	2nd	10815	Our Lady of Guadalupe, Omaha
Div 2	2nd	14070	St. Mary / St. Joseph, Sutton/Harvard
Div 3	2nd	2040	Lexington, Lexington

**District Deputy of the Year**

Jesse Hines District #11 Aurora

**Runner Up**

Chris Gries District #34 Omaha

**Knight of the Year**

Shawn Wilke #11001 Blessed Sacrament, Lincoln

**Runner Up**

Daniel Rubin #1966 Fr. Shine, Plattsmouth

**Rookie Knight of the Year**

Andrew Niehaus #9771 St. Elizabeth Ann, Omaha

**Runner Up**

Michael Macholin #10160 St. Stephen the Martyr, Omaha

**Chaplain of the Year**

Fr. Mark Seiker #8010 Msgr. Hubert Campo, Aurora

**Runner Up**

Fr. Matthew Nash #8579 Msgr. Michael E Dolan, Chadron

**Family of the Year**

Greg & Barb Bonifas #8010 Msgr. Hubert Campo, Aurora

**Runner Up**

Bradley & Vanessa Schmidt #9771 St. Elizabeth Ann, Omaha

**Intellectual Disabilities, Most Funds Raised**

Div 1	1st	10815	Our Lady of Guadalupe, Omaha
Div 2	1st	7684	Fr. Ulenberg, Geneva
Div 3	1st	10305	Fr. James Schwertley, Ft. Calhoun
Div 4	1st	10923	Prince of Peace, Kearney
Div 5	1st	2716	St. Anthony of Padua, Schuyler

**Intellectual Disabilities, Percentage Increase**

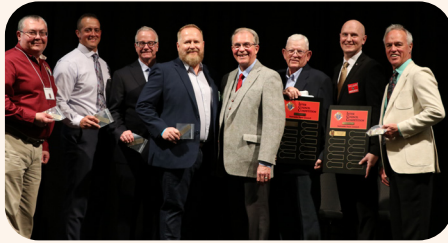
Div 1	1st	11822	American Charities, Friend/Exeter
Div 2	1st	7704	Victor Vifquain, Crete
Div 3	1st	10305	Fr. James Schwertley, Ft. Calhoun
Div 4	1st	9562	St. Anthony, Grand Island
Div 5	1st	7740	St. John Vianney, Omaha

Div 1	2nd	# 5383	John F. Kennedy, Osceola
Div 2	2nd	# 1312	Bishop O'Connor, Greeley
Div 3	2nd	# 5045	Christ the King, Omaha
Div 4	2nd	#11001	Blessed Sacrament, Lincoln
Div 5	2nd	# 4923	St. Joseph, Lincoln

**Special Projects**

Equal	# 7740	St. John Vianney, Omaha
Equal	#10160	St. Stephen the Martyr, Omaha

**ICC AWARDS 2026**



- ICC Gold # 1833 Pope John Paul II, Wahoo
- ICC Gold # 1966 Fr. Shine, Plattsmouth
- ICC Gold # 8010 Msgr. Hubert Campo, Aurora
- ICC Gold # 9704 St. Mary, Lincoln
- ICC Gold # 9771 St. Elizabeth Ann, Omaha
- ICC Gold #10047 Fr. John V. Wallace, Gretna
- ICC Gold #10285 Christ the King, Gering
- ICC Gold #10795 St. Vincent DePaul, Omaha
- ICC Gold #11879 St. Matthew, Bellevue
- ICC Gold #12086 St. Isidore, Columbus
- ICC Gold #18817 St. San Jose Sanchez Del Rio, Lincoln

- ICC Silver # 1728 St. James, Kearney
- ICC Silver # 7034 Fr. John F Brock, Valley
- ICC Silver # 9563 Cathedral of the Risen Christ, Lincoln
- ICC Silver #10160 St. Stephen the Martyr, Omaha
- ICC Silver #10387 St. Leo, Grand Island
- ICC Silver #10510 St. Peter, Lincoln
- ICC Silver #11001 Blessed Sacrament, Lincoln
- ICC Silver #13015 Our Lady of Good Counsel, Lincoln
- ICC Silver #13576 Msgr. David R. Hintz, Lincoln
- ICC Silver #13956 Pope John Paul II, Omaha



- ICC Bronze # 4923 St. Joseph, Lincoln
- ICC Bronze # 6429 Archbishop Bergan, Papillion
- ICC Bronze # 7740 St. John Vianney, Omaha
- ICC Bronze # 9518 Fr. William A. Foster, Ralston
- ICC Bronze #10108 St. Robert Bellarmine, Omaha
- ICC Bronze #10184 Fr. Clement Bracht, Omaha
- ICC Bronze #10895 St. James, Omaha
- ICC Bronze #10909 St. Wenceslaus, Omaha

**On-Going Projects**

- Equal #15101 St. John Vianney, Omaha
- Equal #12086 St. Isidore, Columbus

**Support of Vocations**

- Equal #4973 St. Joseph, Lincoln
- Equal #7740 St. John Vianney, Omaha

**Leonard Feehan Memorial Community Service**

- 1st #7740 St. John Vianney, Omaha

- Community, Supreme Service Award #10510** St. Peter, Lincoln
- Community, State Service Award #11001** Blessed Sacrament, Lincoln

- Family, Supreme Service Award #12086** St. Isidore, Columbus
- Family, State Service Award #8579** Fr. William Kearns, Wayne

- Faith, Supreme Service Award #10913** St. Michael, Lincoln
- Faith, State Service Award #10909** St. Wenceslaus, Omaha

**Support of Catholic Education**

- Equal #7034 Fr. John F. Brock, Valley
- Equal #2681 Fr. Timothy P. Molony, Scottsbluff

**Keep Christ in Christmas**

- 1st Grade K #12086 St. Isidore, Columbus, Eden Noelle Heinrich
- 1st Grades 1-2 #11001 Blessed Sacrament, Lincoln, Thomas Lowery
- 1st Grades 3-4 #10895 St. James, Omaha, Sophia Isabella Santa Cruz
- 1st Grades 5-6 #10913 St. Michael, Lincoln, Drew Mascrip
- 1st Grades 7-8 #12086 St. Isidore, Columbus, Dreya Fiala



2026 ICC Champion  
#8010 Msgr. Hubert Campo, Aurora



**Insurance**

- Pfeifer Agent of the Year Noah Pfeifer
- Swanson Agent of the Year Mike Scholz

**Membership, Highest Percent Gain**

- Div 1 1st 15101 St. Pius X, Omaha
- Div 1 2nd 2351 Wood River, Wood River/Shelton
- Div 1 2nd 10815 Our Lady of Guadalupe, Omaha
- Div 1 2nd 14070 St. Mary/St. Joseph, Sutton/Harvard
- Div 2 1st 13015 Our Lady of Good Counsel, Lincoln
- Div 2 2nd 9704 St. Mary, Lincoln
- Div 3 1st 8010 Msgr. Hubert Campo, Aurora
- Div 3 2nd 16680 St. John Paul II – UNO, Omaha
- Div 4 1st 2292 Ord, Ord
- Div 4 1st 8469 St. Vincent DePaul, Seward
- Div 5 1st 10909 St. Wenceslaus, Omaha
- Div 5 2nd 10795 St. Vincent DePaul, Omaha

## LOTTERY FOR VOCATIONS A Big Win for All

Mitchell Lowery, State Warden | 402-540-1021 | mwlowserykc@gmail.com

The drawing for the State Lottery for Vocations was held at the conclusion of the States Dinner, Saturday evening of the 121st State Convention. The Convention was once again held at the Younes Conference Center - South in Kearney the weekend of April 24-26, 2026.

This year we had an outstanding response for the State Lottery for Vocations. The State Council sent out 24,342 mailings containing 73,026 tickets for the drawing. We received over 4,400 mailings back and collected over 12,324 tickets this year. While that does not sound like a great return, it accounted for an additional \$3,000 coming back for the State Lottery for Vocations.

After some late ticket sales via the help of our outstanding Insurance Field Agents, Former State Chaplain, Bishop Emeritus William J. Dendinger of the Diocese of Grand Island, pulled the following winning tickets from the tumbler.

Harry Kurtenbach from Lindsay won the \$2,500 grand prize. The remaining prizes and winners were: \$1,000 to St. Mary's Church in Dawson; \$750 to Emmet Powers of Lincoln; \$500 to Lee Diessner of

Primrose; \$250 to Anita Perrin. The five \$100 winners went to: Jason Wesselmann, Omaha; Mark Maser, Lincoln; Mark Maser, Lincoln (Yes... He did win twice!); Tracey Sobota, Schuyler; and Brenda Smith, Seward.

The total money collected from the 2026 Lottery stands at \$123,240. After administrative costs for the State Lottery for Vocations, \$99,831.87 will be added to the account this year.

All money collected will be used to support Vocations in the State of Nebraska. Donations made from the Vocations account include gifts to all our Seminarians and Religious throughout the year, gifts to the Bishops in the State of Nebraska, donations to the eight Newman Houses/Centers/Clubs in Nebraska, funds to help students travel to the SEEK Conference and many more outstanding causes.

There are still a few donations being received, so the final total will increase some.

Thank you all for your support of this year's State Lottery for Vocations. Let's work together to continue to support Vocations across Nebraska and to increase the participation in next year's State Lottery for Vocations.

The young men and women who have responded to God's call to a Religious Vocation are grateful for your prayers and financial support!

## Convention Wrap Up Continued from page 11.



the 2026 Family of the Year.

The Ladies Program featured a panel from Cloisters on the Platte. They shared what being on a silent Ignatian retreat was like and how these are the hallmark of this spiritual oasis in Sarpy County.

Continued on page 15.

## Keep Christ in Christmas Cards and Stocking Stuffers



The kickoff for Keep Christ in Christmas 2026 will be at the July meeting in Kearney.

Preliminary highlights are that suppliers are the same (Catholic Prayer Cards, LLC, for English cards and stocking stuffers, and Christ is Christmas, LLC for multicultural Christmas cards and promotional items).

Councils can use online ordering for Catholic Prayer Cards, LLC. Christ is Christmas orders must use the paper form found online or provided at the July meeting to mail with checks (payable to Knights of Columbus) to Faith Director, Mark Main, 808 Karen Dr., Lincoln, NE 68522. Watch for details on the State website for a complete list of items and the ordering process for each vendor.

Mark and Julie Main  
Faith Directors



**Online Form Link:**

<https://form.jotform.com/260964756537168>

## Convention Wrap Up Continued from page 14.

At the Saturday business meeting, the 10 established Gold councils were voted on by Delegates. Council 8010, Msgr. Hubert Campo from Aurora and Giltner was selected as the ICC Champion Council of the Year. Delegates also heard the annual report from State Deputy Michael Schaeffer and inspiring remarks from Damien O'Connor, our Supreme Guest and Deputy Chief of Staff in the Office of the Supreme Knight. Saturday evening's Mass was celebrated by Former State Chaplain, Fr. John Rooney, and Bishop Emeritus of Grand Island, William Dendinger.

The State Banquet followed with more great comments from Supreme Guest O'Connor and State Deputy Schaeffer.

Sunday morning, the business meeting concluded with the re-election of our current State Officers and the selection of Delegates to this year's Supreme Convention in Denver, August 4th - 6th.

Throughout the weekend, attendees received inspiring messages from bishops and priests, including our State Chaplain, Fr. Bill Cremers. They conducted the business of our State while enjoying the chance to meet new friends or renew old friendships with Brother Knights from across Nebraska.



*Above: Supreme Guest Damien O'Connor addresses attendees.*

*Right: Bishop Emeritus Dendinger draws Vocations Lottery winners.*

*Below: McGivney Foundation Advisors share silent auction winners.*



*PSD Larry Reed reads the Necrology.*



News from the **NEIL PFEIFER AGENCY**

Knights of Columbus Insurance Serving Northeast Nebraska and West Central Iowa

*Fantastic!*

## Agents of the Month



January  
J. Krawczyk  
Omaha



February  
Brian Ford  
Omaha



March  
Brian Ford  
Omaha



April  
Matt Harm  
Omaha

## Pfeifer Agency Million Dollar Round Table Honors:

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

MDRT Agents from the Pfeifer Agency are Neil Pfeifer of Norfolk, Jeremy Borchers of West Point, Noah Pfeifer of Norfolk, and Brian Ford, Roy Metter and Tim Nowak all of Omaha.



**MDRT Court of the Round Table** members must produce three times the requirements of MDRT for this higher honor was achieved by Craig Pfeifer of Madison. Craig is among an even more distinctive group in the world's leading life insurance and financial services professionals! What an awesome achievement!

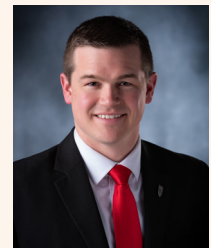
Congratulations men!



Jeremy  
Borchers



Brian Ford



Roy Metter



Neil Pfeifer



Noah Pfeifer



Tim Nowak

Neil Pfeifer, General Agent for Northwest Nebraska and West Central Iowa  
402.640.1239 ext. 1 | [neil.pfeifer@kofc.org](mailto:neil.pfeifer@kofc.org) | [www.neilpfeiferagencykofcins.com](http://www.neilpfeiferagencykofcins.com)

News from the **TONY SWANSON AGENCY**

Knights of Columbus Insurance Serving Southeast, Central and Western Nebraska

**Swanson Agency MDRT Agents**

Agents from the Tony Swanson Agency who qualified for Million Dollar Round Table (MDRT) this year are: Brian Almond of Hastings, Ian Johnstone of Lincoln, Aaron Schock of Grand Island, Mike Scholz of Loomis, and David St. Hilaire of Lincoln! MDRT agents rank in the top 3 percent of financial professionals in the world.

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



Brian Almond



Ian Johnstone



Aaron Schock



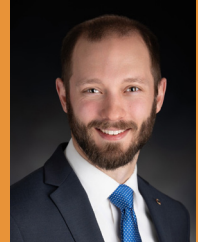
Mike Scholz



David St. Hilaire

*Great Job!*

Agents of the Month



January  
Ian Ollis  
Lincoln



February  
Ian Ollis  
Lincoln



March  
Isaiah Swanson  
Grand Island



April  
Aaron Schock  
Grand Island

**Superior Ratings and Responsible Investing**

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



27,000+ MEMBERS STRONG!

Charity

Unity

Fraternity

Patriotism

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS, NEBRASKA STATE COUNCIL | PO Box 98 | Elkhorn, NE 68022

## SAVE the DATE

### Culture of Life Foundation 2nd Pro Life Gala

**Save the Date for the 2nd Pro Life Gala:** Please mark your calendars for the 2nd Nebraska Knights of Columbus Gala, to be held on October 9th at St. Robert Bellarmine Parish in Omaha.

This year's gala promises to be another wonderful evening of fellowship, celebration, and support for the mission of the Knights of Columbus in Nebraska.

Kelly Lester will be the guest speaker. Her story has been featured on the 700 Club for CBN. She is a regular contributor to OAN, Newsmax and Fox News. She currently works in Outreach and Government Engagement for And Then There Were None and Pro-Life Ministries, and is the Director of Outreach for Maps Global.

More details regarding the program, other guest speakers,

and ticket information will be shared in the coming weeks.

We are **seeking Knights and volunteers interested in serving on the Gala Planning Committee**. It is a great opportunity to help shape a meaningful event, support our charitable mission, and work alongside fellow Knights in service and fraternity. If you have experience – or simply a desire to help – we would love to hear from you.

If you are interested in helping or want more information about the gala, please contact Mike Conrad, 402-779-9913 or [mconrad@abbnebraska.com](mailto:mconrad@abbnebraska.com).

We look forward to celebrating together this October and continuing our shared commitment to faith, charity, and fraternity.

# KEY DATES

## Mandatory Council/Assembly Dates

June 15: 2026-2027 Directory Input Due to Exec. Secretary	September 1: State Semi-Annual Per Capita Due (See Email Statement)
June 30: Form 185/186 Report of Officers for 2026*#	September 1: Supreme Semi-Annual Per Capita, etc. Due (see Officers Online under Forms Tab for July 1, 2026, Council Stmt)
June 30: Form 365 Report of Service Personnel for 2026*#	
August 3-6: Supreme Convention	
August 15: Annual Audit#	
September 1: ICC Council Activity Planner Due	

## Last Date for Fraternal Year 2025-2026 Forms

June 30: Form SP-7 Columbian Award Application Due to Supreme  
June 30: ASAP, RSVP, Food for Families Refund/Report due to Supreme (if required)

## District Deputies

September 15: Form 944 District Deputy Report on Council Status

## State Officers and Directors

August 10: Inputs for the Fall Courier Newsletter

## July 10-12, 2026: Leadership Training Seminar

Younes Conference Center South, Kearney, NE

\* Submit electronically using Member Management under Council Administration.

# A copy of this mandatory report shall be emailed (preferred) to:

[kofcmvaughn@gmail.com](mailto:kofcmvaughn@gmail.com) or mailed to: Mike Vaughn,  
Executive Secretary, 1609 Hedgeapple Rd., Plattsmouth, NE 68048.