



The Explorer

A Publication
of the
Kansas
Knights of Columbus

SPECIAL CONVENTION ISSUE

SATURDAY, May 6, 2017

116th State Convention Mass



The Opening Convention Mass was held at Christ the King Catholic Church in Topeka on Friday. The Main Celebrant and Homilist was Most Reverend John B. Brungardt, Bishop of Dodge City Diocese. Concelebrants were Most Reverend Edward J. Weisenburger, Most Reverend Carl A.

Kemme, Reverend Dan L. Gardner State Chaplain, and Priests from across the State of Kansas.

Bishop Brungardt began his homily by welcoming all those participating in the mass. He recognized all of the Knights of Columbus that were present and wished them a successful convention.

Bishop Brungardt based his homily on three points, to encounter, to invite and to accompany. Profound verbs from Pope Francis, from the Salvation History. What do these mean in our lives?

Encounter - Jesus encounters Saul taking him to Damascus. We should encounter issues concerning Pro-Life, Disabilities and Out Reach services.

Invite - Jesus invited Saul to the city. We should encourage others to invite, to take a risk, and be persistent knowing that you may get rejected.

Accompany – Jesus asked Ananias to accompany Saul. We must accompany those on their journey.

The Eucharist gives us strength on our journey. It allows us to trust the Lord so we may lead, invite and accompany others. He loves us more than we can imagine. Whoever eats my Flesh and drinks my Blood, will rise on the last day. Jesus will be with us in the Eucharist.

Convention Workshops

The Convention Workshops were held in the Grand Ballroom Friday afternoon. The afternoon workshop began with instructions from State Advocate Jamey Roth regarding how and what IRS 990 form needs to be filed for all councils.

Program Director Tom Schmeidler gave an update on the status of programs this year. He provided detailed instructions on how to complete the Columbian Form SP-7 and the new guidelines regarding the new Domestic Church Program. Consult your District Deputy to make sure the form is completed correctly.

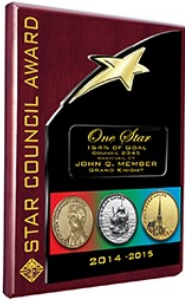
Membership Director John Schultz explained the Who, What, Where, When, Why and How to recruit those new candidates. He then introduced Former State Chaplain Reverend Tom Dolezal.

Reverend Tom Dolezal shared his personal story of how and why he joined the Knights of Columbus. He stated “Christ wants to make a real difference in our lives, to redeem us, to give us a fresh start.” The Knights are called to see the needs and use the tools we have to fulfill them. After all, we are called to feed the hungry, give drink to thirsty, cloth the naked, visit the imprisoned and attend to the sick. Father Tom quoted Bill Baalman stating “The Knights give Catholic men the opportunity to practice the Corporal Works of Mercy.”

General Agent John Mahon gave a presentation on the Insurance Program. Most of his presentation will be in tomorrow’s edition.

Finally, District Master/Supreme Warden Francis Drouhard and Vice Supreme Master Bill Baalman spoke on the importance of the Patriotic Degree within the Knights of Columbus. Sir Knights foster a spirit of patriotism and work to keep God in our lives. Honor Guards, which are the more visible part of the Knights, show we are not shy and say that we are proud to be Catholic.

Incentive to earn the Star Council Award



If a council earns the Star Council Award (any level) for the 2016-2017 fraternal year, it will receive a credit of \$4.50 for each billable member on its roster as of June 30, 2017.

"Building the Domestic Church While Strengthening Our Parish"

By Tom Schmeidler State Program Director

St. John Paul II once said, "The Knights of Columbus are the strong right arm of the Church". We must now become the strong right arm of our local parish. We must develop and use existing programs to bring our knights and our knight families closer to God, our Faith, and to be involved within their local parishes. The Domestic Church program materials provided by Supreme and the State Council are here to help with ideas and support. These books and brochures are located within the kiosk at the Information Booth, please stop by and take some faith strengthening materials back home with you to share with your parish family.



Have you joined the Father McGivney Guild?

Go here for more information:

www.fathermcgivney.org

Adopt-a-Seminarian

This fraternal year 105 Diocesan Seminarians and 38 Religious were adopted, receiving pledges of \$254,235.00. Most councils and assemblies participated in the program. Thank you to all the councils and assemblies for your support of religious vocations.

Kansas State Knight of the Month

Month	Name	Council
July	Patrick Sims	7279 Hutchinson
August	Dale Miller	883 Pittsburg
September	J.T. Horacek	1539 Spearville
October	Dave Jones	10932 O P-Ascension
November	Joseph Vestering	2296 El Dorado
December	Joe Finar	1913 Olathe-St. Paul
January	Ivan Dressman	1383 Frankfort
February	Steve Moser	1777 Marysville

Memorial Mass

Our Annual Memorial Mass for all deceased Brother Knights will be held tomorrow at 8:00 am in the Regency Ballroom. The Main Celebrant and Homilist will be Most Reverend Joseph F. Naumann. Concelebrants will be Reverend Dan L. Gardner, State Chaplain, and other Priests. Please join us in offering prayers for our deceased members and their families.

Today's Schedule — Saturday, May 6th

6:00 AM – 8:00 AM	Breakfast	On Your Own	12:30 PM	Ladies Luncheon and Entertainment	Christ the King Church Yadrich Hall
8:00 AM	Mass	Regency Ballroom	1:00 PM	Business Session	Regency Ballroom
8:00 AM – 1:00 PM	Registration	Hotel Atrium	6:30 PM	Convention Banquet	Regency Ballroom
9:00 AM	Awards Presentation	Regency Ballroom	9:00 PM – Midnight	Hospitality Rooms	2nd Floor
9:00 AM	Country Store Opens Pennies from Heaven Collection	Fountain Rooms	10:00 PM	Pennies from Heaven Auction	Hotel Atrium
11:00 AM	Men's Lunch Break	On Your Own	11:30 PM	State Officers Meeting	Mansion Dining Room

Mass Today

Saturday Mass is at 8:00 am in the Regency Ballroom. The Main Celebrant and Homilist will be Most Reverend Edward J Weisenburger. Concelebrants will be Reverend Dan L. Gardner, State Chaplain, and other Priests.

Fourth Degree By District Master Francis G. Drouhard

The first exemplification of the Fourth Degree in Kansas was held in Topeka on Thanksgiving Day, November 28, 1907. J. W. Gibbons was also appointed the first Master of the Fourth Degree for Kansas and Oklahoma. After 109 years of service I am proud to report the Fourth Degree District of Kansas remains strong, active and continues to promote Patriotism, the fourth principle of our Order.

I invite and encourage all Third Degree Knights to join the Fourth Degree. Any Third Degree member in good standing is eligible to join. The need to support and defend our country's religious freedom and civil laws are ever becoming more vital to the growth and well-being of our American heritage. We must remain committed and united in this battle.

Since last year's convention, we hosted five Fourth Degree exemplifications for 260 candidates. Two new assemblies were chartered at St. Catherine of Sienna in Wichita and at Benedictine College in Atchison. Other new assemblies are in process.

The next Fourth Degree Exemplification will be held in Gardner on August 19, 2017. Other upcoming exemplifications are August 26th in Hays, November 18th in Topeka and April 14th, 2018 in Wichita in conjunction with the bi-annual meeting. Other dates are being confirmed as well. Every Sir Knight is encouraged to recruit new Sir Knights for these exemplifications. Only through the recruitment of new Sir Knights will your assembly remain strong and active today and in the future.

Our Vice Supreme Master, Bill Baalman, will soon be completing his fourth year of service as Vice Supreme Master. I wish to thank Bill for his dedication to the Fourth Degree and for four years of great leadership & growth for the Rev. Juan Padilla Province.

Respectfully submitted,

Francis G. Drouhard

Ladies Hospitality Room

The State Council would like to invite all family members to the Family Hospitality Room, sponsored by the Daughters of Isabella, there will be games and camaradery for all family members". Sunday, from 9:30 until the Convention adjourns. The hospitality room will be hosted in the Jefferson Ballroom (downstairs)

Columbian Award Forms

Grand Knights: Don't forget the best time to submit your Council's SP-7 Columbian Award Application form is during the State Convention! By submitting the form this weekend you will not only assure you have completed one of the requirements for Star Council (the deadline is June 30 to Supreme), the State Council will also pay the postage! So, save your Council the cost of postage and take care of this today!

Candidates for the 2017 Supreme Convention

Kansas is allowed ten delegates to the Supreme Convention in St Louis, Missouri August 1-3, 2017. The State Deputy and the Immediate Past State Deputy are automatic delegates. The following are candidates running for the other eight delegate positions:

Thomas L. "Tom" Smith	Michael C. Holthaus
Eric E. Gonzalez	Mark Wetta
Health Ohl	Todd R. Bachamp
Kevin Oneslager	Eric Nichol

What's Going on Tomorrow - Sunday, May 7th

8:00 AM	Memorial Mass	Regency Ballroom
9:30 AM	Business Session	Regency Ballroom
9:30 AM-12:00 PM	Ladies Lounge	Jefferson Ballroom
12:00 PM	Supreme Conv. Delegates Mtg.	Regency Ballroom

Recruitment = Circle of Honor

For the remaining two months of this fraternal year, we must be membership conscious. We must seek out and sign up potential members and their families to join our honored Order. We must be pro-active in promoting the ideals that represent the Knights of Columbus to every eligible Catholic man and his family.

Look over your membership rosters, invite the inactive members to reactivate their membership. Hold an Open House or Information Night and explain to prospective members and their family what we do and what the Knights can do for them. Councils are encouraged to conduct Admission Degrees in the remaining two months. Utilize your Council Chaplain, Parish Priest, Field Agent and District Deputy. They can assist your Council with membership recruitment.

Above all, every member of the Knights of Columbus needs to ask every eligible Catholic man they know "Are you a member of the Knights of Columbus?" If they say no, then you need to say "Then you need to be a Knight of Columbus". It all starts with a conversation.

Insurance Agency Awards

Once again the Knights of Columbus Insurance Program continues to grow and set new records. The Knights of Columbus Insurance Program now has over \$108 billion of insurance in force worldwide with \$3.9 billion of that here in Kansas. Last year our Kansas agencies issued more than \$355 Million of life insurance on members and their families.

Our full time agency staff continues to grow and to work with the council officers in membership growth.

This past year, the Knights of Columbus held a National Field Agent Sales Conference in Orlando. The state of Kansas was well represented with most agents attending.

J.J. Deges and Darin Reed, of the Western Kansas Agency, qualified for the prestigious **Million Dollar Round Table (MDRT)**. The MDRT recognition is awarded to only the top 1% of all life insurance agents, both fraternal and commercial from around the world.

The Western Kansas Agency finished the year as the 13th in the Order, the Central Kansas Agency finished as the 22nd agency and the Eastern Kansas Agency finished 34th. This is out of 127 agencies in the United States and Canada.

The following men were our leaders for 2016 and have qualified for the Knights of Columbus trip.

Western Kansas Agency

Darin Reed*, Dan Reed

Central Kansas Agency

Adam Bruna, Darren Mueller, John Schibi, Bill Weber

Eastern Kansas Agency

Zach Caro, John Dorsey III, David Soukup*, Luke Henry

General Agents

George Spinelli*, Greg Schafer*, John Mahon*

*Supreme Knights Club Qualifiers

Career Opportunity as an Insurance Field Agent



The Knights of Columbus has a career opportunity for you — an opportunity that some say is the best paid hard work in the world — and an opportunity to help the Knights of Columbus in “protecting families for generations.”

The life insurance sales career offers qualified, dedicated members of the Knights of Columbus the chance to provide a valuable service to others by uncovering prospects' needs and recommending a life insurance solution. Through periodic reviews, the life insurance agent helps clients keep abreast of their constantly changing financial security situations. Through such service, he can enjoy the financial rewards of job satisfaction inherent in a professional career.

- **If you are interested in helping others**, you should consider the K of C agency force. Your ideas & your recommendations, based on your ability to design

appropriate plans to meet them, can have a significant effect on your clients' personal and business lives.

- **If you are interested in career growth**, you should consider the K of C agency force. Once you become established in your career, you are your own boss and, after a period of training, you plan and work your own hours.
- **You also might be interested in the financial rewards** the career brings — rewards that are in proportion to your achievement. In the life insurance sales business, you determine your own income, and you are paid what you are worth.

**Protecting families for generations
is more than a motto.
For Knights of Columbus Agents,
it is a sacred trust.**

If you are a Knight, or eligible to become a Knight, this could be the career for you. To find out more, feel free to contact our Field Management Department. At (203) 772-2130, ext. 261 or one of the General Agents listed below.

Western Kansas

George Spinelli, CLU, FICF, LUTCF
108 E. 10th St.
Ellis, KS 67637

Office: 785-726-4899
Cell: 785-650-3404

Central Kansas

Greg Schafer, FIC, LUTCF
8100 E. 22nd St. N, BLDG 2100-5
Wichita, KS 67206

Office: 316-683-4900
Cell: 316-259-0094

Eastern Kansas

John Mahon, FICF, LUTCF
1275 SW Topeka Blvd.
Topeka, KS 66612

Office: 785-408-8800
Cell: 785-554-4686