



# The Explorer

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August 2017

## STATE DEPUTY'S MESSAGE

We are already one full month into the 2017-2018 Fraternal Year! The State Officers, Directors and Chairmen have developed an Action Plan to insure the success of the Order in Kansas. The District Deputies have been and installed and have had their weekend of



training. The Grand Knights and important Council Officers, Directors and Chairmen have all attended the Regional District Meetings. Directories, Program and Membership Guide, forms, charts, pamphlets and information have all been distributed and shared. Now, it is time to

put all this to work to achieve the sort of success that I know that each Council in Kansas is capable of!

The measure of success for any team in any situation is to end the season as a champion. The Knights of Columbus is no different. Each Council should strive for the Star Council Award or the Sunflower Award. It is the measure of a champion that the Supreme Council has identified as the line between being average... or completely successful.

Becoming a champion in any endeavor doesn't happen by accident. Rather, it requires training, educating, preparing, and executing the plan. It requires teamwork and synchronization. Sometimes, it requires more than just a little luck. The most important ingredient hasn't been mentioned yet, and it is a four-letter word: work!

The greatest plans of all time will fail if no one is willing to do the work. You must do the work to get the job done. There is no elevator in the path to success: everyone gets to take the stairs!

By this point, your Council should have put together its' key dates for membership drives. If you are not sure when these should be held, let me give you a couple of hints: October and March! Now that we have the months established, I'll leave it to you to set the dates. After you set a firm date, begin the membership recruitment process. Recruiting new members is essential to the continued growth and well-being of your council and the Order. Offering a man mem-

bership in the Knights of Columbus gives him the opportunity to improve his own life and his community. Membership allows him to experience the fraternal bond that Knights share while growing closer to his family and his faith.

For your council's recruiting efforts to succeed, you need to devise an Action Plan and follow through on it. The "Action Steps" and "Support Materials" links located on the left side of the following webpage [www.kofc.org/membership](http://www.kofc.org/membership) will lead you to strategies that your council can implement to execute a successful recruitment campaign and give you a view of the variety of materials available to you. Use these ideas and materials: to help your recruitment efforts, to keep our Order growing and strong, and to give every qualified man the opportunity to become a Knight of Columbus. These methods are tried and true: they may not work all the time, but they do work!

**“Building the Domestic Church While Strengthening our Parish: Become the Cornerstone”** is our membership theme this year. This theme has been chosen to help bring excitement to your recruitment efforts, and to remind you that many times it only takes a spark or two to get a lot of excitement in your Parish Community, simply by recruiting new members and then having them participate in all facets of Columbian Fraternalism. A prospective member wants to know why he should join our ranks. You can let him know what it means to be a Catholic and a Knight.

“We seek to make God known to others both in the work we do and in the educational and evangelizing initiatives we support, bringing the Good News of the Gospel to as many people as possible.” Carl A. Anderson, Supreme Knight.

Recruit new members to your Council for the most important reason: because we are a Catholic Family Fraternal Service Organization.

Vivat Jesus,

Vincent P. Melvin III  
State Deputy

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### **AUGUST:**

- 1 Deadline for receipt of Form #365 at Supreme **(REQUIRED FOR STAR COUNCIL AWARD)**
- 1-3 135th Supreme Council Meeting  
St Louis, Missouri
- 4 Columbian Squires 92st Anniversary
- 7-14 Knights of Columbus  
Family Week Celebration
- 7 Major Degree Admission, Formation and Knighthood: 6984 -  
Hays- St. Mary
- 12 Venerable Michael J. McGivney's  
165th Birthday
- 14 127th Anniversary of the death of  
Fr. Michael J. McGivney
- 15 Deadline for receipt of Form #1295  
(Semi-Annual Audit) at Supreme
- 15 Deadline to submit articles for the  
Knight's Lite
- 15-21 Order wide First Degree Week
- 19 Patriotic Degree Exemplification  
in Gardner
- 23 Order Church Drive Kits for October
- 26 Patriotic Degree Exemplification  
in Hays
- 31 Order Coats for Kids materials  
Deadline to order Tootsie Rolls

### **SEPTEMBER:**

- 1 Form # 468 Columbian Squires  
Officers& Counselors Report  
due at Supreme
- 11 Knights of Columbus World Day of  
Prayer for Peace
- 14 Exultation of the Cross
- 24 Major Degree Admission, Formation,  
and Knighthood: 16159 - Goddard
- 28 Deadline for Religious Education  
Fund Requests to  
Father Dan Gardner

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

Brother Knights: Alex Henry from council # 10301-Wetmore District 02 has been chosen as the State Knight of the Month for June. Congratulations brother Henry.

Supreme Family of the Month winners for June: Gary McGrath Family Council 883-Pittsburg, Gilbert Otter Family Council 1510-Norton, Mike Moffitt Family Council 1913-Olathe-St. Paul, Chris Lebbin Family Council 5212-Scott City, Richard Wagner Family Council 8976-Downs, James Fricke Family Council 10834-Lansing, Joe Cooper Family Council 12960-Lawrence-Corpus-Christi, Charles Kissling Family Council 16027-Wichita- St. Catherine. Congratulations to all our winners.

Council forms are available on the Supreme Council's Website at [www.kofc.org](http://www.kofc.org). They can be accessed by selecting the "For Officers" option on the homepage, then selecting the "Officer's Materials" tab. Scroll down the page to the "All You Need to Succeed" section. They can also be accessed by going to the State Council's website and choosing "Forms", then "Supreme" from the menu on the left.

### **STATE CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE**

Reverend Dan Gardner, State Chaplain

"Simon, son of John, do you love me.....?"  
"Yes, Lord,...you know that I love you."  
"Simon, son of John, do you love me.....?"  
"Yes, Lord,...you know that I love you."  
"Simon, son of John, do you love me.....?"  
"Lord, you know everything. You know well that I love you."(excerpts from John 21:15-17)

This is an exchange of a conversation between Jesus and Simon Peter after sharing breakfast which took place after the Resurrection. Three times Jesus asks Peter if he loved him. Three times Peter responds in the affirmative. However, with the translation, we lose the impact of this exchange.

In the original language, the first two times that Jesus asks Peter, "do you love me", he is using the word for love which expresses a total unselfish devotion. The two times Peter responds, "you know that I love you", Peter uses a different word for love, one that expresses a friendship, affectionate kind of love. Peter does not respond with the same sense of love of which Jesus means. The third time Jesus asks for the love of Peter, Jesus asks for the love with expresses friendship and affection. He accepts Peter on his terms. In the end, Peter will respond with the love which expresses a total unselfish devotion by the way he will live his life and the way he will die.

What can we learn from this? I believe that Jesus calls us to love him with total unselfish devotion. We most likely respond with friendship and affection. And yes, Jesus will accept our love as it is, yet calls us to a deeper love. He will give the grace to live each day less for ourselves and more for Jesus. This is how we will love with unselfish devotion.

As Knights, we continue to love as best we can, and yet deepen that love for others in our service and prayer. Let us see each act we do as a deepening of the love we

have for Jesus. In the end, we will have lived that love of total unselfish devotion to our Lord.

### **STATE MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE**

Brother Knights,

One of the rewarding experiences of this job is the opportunity to talk to so many Brother Knights during the month of July with the District Deputy meetings and the Regional meetings held throughout the state. The entire state Council team has noticed a definite excitement this year in regards to recruiting. We see many looking to BECOME THE CORNERSTONE of their district and Council. It's not too late to hop on that bandwagon.

We are encouraging Councils to actively shoot for Star Council this year. It all starts with a conversation with one prospective member. "Are you a Knight of Columbus?" is the question you should be asking every man in your parish. If they say no, then the response should be "Then you need to be a Knight of Columbus."

If we get out there and ask people in person and tell them about the good works we do in every Council, not matter how big or how small, we can actively grow our Councils and make those acts of charity bigger and better every year.

Cornerstones are added at the beginning of a building project, not at the last minute. Let's go find those men who BECOME THE CORNERSTONES of the future.

God bless and Vivat Jesus,  
John W. Schulz, State Membership Director

### **STATE PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE**

The 2017-2018 Fraternal Year is already going strong! The "Building the Domestic Church While Strengthening our Parish" initiative should have been shared in your council? Council's should be recruiting new members, planning, and implementing their current programs and finding new programs that help build our faith, our community, and our families.

The District Deputies were educated on all the State Programs at their meeting in Wichita on July 15 & 16. District Deputies then shared their excitement with the councils at the Regional District Meetings held across the state later in July. From there the Grand Knights, Officers, and Council Program Personnel will take the message back to their councils for implementation. Our goal for this year is to be

#1 in programming, but this can only be accomplished by having 100% participation from **all** councils.

After filing your form #365 at Supreme by August 1, your next goal is to file the semi-annual audit by August 15. Make this your next priority. All forms may be obtained via the State Website at [www.kansas-kofc.org](http://www.kansas-kofc.org). Choose Forms, then Supreme from the menu on the left.

### **CHURCH ACTIVITIES**

#### ***Adopt a Seminarian***

Church Activities Director Gary Wondra will be sending an updated list of seminarians to all Grand Knights in September. All councils should consider adopting two or more seminarians and return their pledge card to Gary, or complete the Adopt a Seminarian Form on the [kansas-kofc.org](http://kansas-kofc.org) website, before November 1, 2017. If your council has specific seminarians that you would like to adopt, include the seminarian names on the pledge card. If your council doesn't have specific seminarians, one or more will be assigned to your council. Equal amounts of financial support to all seminarians can be achieved by allowing Gary to assign seminarians to your council. The Bishops of Kansas express their appreciation for all of the support the seminarians receive from the Knights of Columbus. With your councils help, we can continue to: "Build the Domestic Church While Strengthening Our Parish."

#### ***Religious Education***

The Religious Education Raffle tickets and request forms for educational funds have been distributed. Please verify that the request form is given to the appropriate parish pastor and that the form is returned to our State Chaplain, Reverend Dan Gardner, by September 28. The Raffle Tickets fund this program, and it is never too early to start selling the tickets. With \$76,000 in prize money available, this raffle is sure to be a big hit! Get your councils on board today! Please contact Religious Ed Fund Chairman Steve Abels if you need more tickets!

#### ***Father McGivney Guild***

Canonization of our founder, Venerable Fr. Michael J. McGivney, is closer to becoming a reality with each passing day. However, your continued prayers are needed to keep the process moving. John Kasper, PSD & State McGivney Guild

*Continued next page*

Chairman, encourages all members to join the Fr. McGivney Guild, which has been set up by Supreme to further this cause. Applications may be obtained from the Columbia Magazine, the Supreme and Kansas K of C websites, or by contacting John Kasper at 785-658-2276.

## YOUTH ACTIVITIES

### *Youth Activity*

Youth Activities Director Bob Duffin wants to remind all councils that are going to participate in the Soccer Challenge to get their contest kit ordered before the end of the month. Also they need to get their Free Throw kits ordered and get the hosting gyms reserved now to make sure they are available for the contests. Both forms can be ordered off the Supreme website at [www.Kansas-KofC.org](http://www.Kansas-KofC.org).

### *Columbian Squires*

Chairman Bob Duffin is ready to assist your council or assembly that has a Squires Circle, with any questions or needs that accrue. The Squires is a great way to get the young men involved, and is open to any Catholic men between the ages of 10 and 18. For more information, please contact Bob Duffin at 620-396-8354 or email to [squires@kansas-kofc.org](mailto:squires@kansas-kofc.org).

## FAMILY ACTIVITIES

### *Family Life*

With the start of a new fraternal year, Family Life Director Scott Nichols reminds all councils to keep the Knights of Columbus families growing and strong. One way to "Bring the Vision of Family Life" and building the Domestic Church. Please take time and recognize those families within our Parishes whom contribute to your council, community and church as your council's **Family of the Month**.

Arrange a time to **present them** with a certificate # 1843 at church or at one of your council meetings. You can also send the name of your nominee to Supreme before the 15th of the following month, utilizing form # 1993. If they are selected as one of the 100 winning families drawn by Supreme each month, they will receive a letter from Supreme Knight Carl Anderson and a Holy Family Plaque. This is a very worthwhile program as it is our responsibility to help grow the domestic church each and every month.

K of C **Family Week is August 7-13** please plan your family event and **take photos** as a way to document your history

and participate in the annual scrapbook program. Please send a photo of your activity/s to your DD and family life director.

Finally, the **Marion Prayer Icon travel schedule** is completing a third year. The 2017-2018 schedule may be viewed @ [www.kansas-kofc.org](http://www.kansas-kofc.org) website.

## COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

### *Commitment to Humanities*

Chairman Barney Wolters reminds all councils of the August 31 deadline for ordering Tootsie Rolls. The minimum order to receive free shipping is 33 cases so be sure to team up with other councils, if necessary, to get the free shipping. Place your order early to assure that you have your Tootsie Rolls for the Tootsie Roll Drive dates of October 13, 14, and 15. We need every council to order and distribute at least one additional case of Tootsie Rolls in order to meet our goal and raise \$400,000 in Kansas to support our dear friends with intellectual disabilities.

A Global Messenger with Special Olympics recently spoke to at a Knights Ladies brunch of the importance and impact it makes in the lives of the players and their families. We hope your council can be part of that mission.

### *Pennies from Heaven*

You should already be planning your donations for Pennies from Heaven. Suggestions are; fundraisers at your council meetings, special events to raise money, or submit items for the Country Store at the State Convention in May. Your donations go to support the EDAP program which provides support to people that have been impacted by disasters such as fires, floods, or tornados. Please reach out to your special craftsmen in your parish! Contact Pennies From Heaven chairman Bruce Luehring with information on what items you are going to contribute to the Country Store or for the silent or live auction at the State Convention in May. Contact Bruce to make arrangements to deliver items as soon as they are available.

### *Culture of Life Update*

Protection for the unborn and the elderly is a primary goal for the Knights of Columbus. If we are to be successful in our Culture of Life endeavors, EVERY council must participate in Culture of Life activities. Now is the time to start planning some of the activities for your council's involvement in the program. For example, you

must start this month with a Rosary before or after each Mass in your parish(s) to qualify for the Evangelium Vitae Award. Has your council donated towards the ultrasound machines? If not, it is a great time to plan and host a fundraiser to help save the lives of the unborn. The Silver Rose Run is also rapidly approaching with the route beginning in Hiawatha on September 17th and ending in Liberal on October 15th. Please call your Culture of Life Chairman, Lino Munoz at 785-249-2075 if you have questions or need ideas on how to support the Culture of Life program.

## COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

### *Athletic Events*

Chairman Randy Testa advises that August is an excellent month for councils and parishes to participate in one of the Health Service Programs. Blood Donor Program, Blood Pressure Clinic, CPR Training, and Organ Donor Program. Remember, we as Knights of Columbus should reach out to help those in need. This is an excellent opportunity to promote within our home communities

### *Fraternal*

Go to [www.kansas-kofc.org](http://www.kansas-kofc.org) to sign up to receive fraternal notices and other information from the State Council.

Every council should select a Knight of the Month. We would like to see more councils selecting a deserving brother as Knight of the Month, and for the council to submit this information by the 15th of each month to Fraternal Activities Chairman Alex Neises. Forms are available on the State website. This will ensure that your deserving brother is eligible for the State Knight of the Month drawing. A Knights of Columbus Crucifix is awarded every month.

### *Publicity*

It's time for all councils to select a Public Relations Chairman in order to help "get the word out" about the many excellent programs that are conducted around the state in our parishes, and communities. Make sure you add his name to the Service Program Personnel report form 365 when you submit it to Supreme. Help spread the news; it will get more men interested in joining our great order.

### *Website Update*

Have you visited the state website at [www.kansas-kofc.org](http://www.kansas-kofc.org)? Contact information is available and up-to-date for State

Officers, Directors and Chairmen, Insurance Personnel, Past State Deputies, District Deputies, and council Grand Knights.

All District Deputies and Grand Knights are encouraged to review the council information and forward any changes to Doug Wietharn. Please make sure there is a valid street address for the meeting location. If you have any comments, questions, or suggestions, please contact Doug Wietharn at [webmaster@kansas-kofc.org](mailto:webmaster@kansas-kofc.org).

### *Knights-Lite*

Tom Schmeidler, Editor, reminds everyone that **August 15** is the deadline to submit articles for publication. Please be prompt so the issue won't be delayed.

### *History and Centennial Book*

Historian and Centennial Book Chairman, Jim Pritchard, is asking all Grand Knights to make sure every member of your council has the opportunity to purchase a copy of the history book, *Fraternalism and Leadership The Second Fifty Years of the Knights of Columbus in Kansas*. The book has history from 1950 to 2000, council histories, historical leaders, Kansas impact at Supreme

Council and more than 180 historic photographs. An order form may be found on page 88 of the "Official State Directory" or you may contact Jim by phone 913-294-3303 or by e-mail at [historian@kansas-kofc.org](mailto:historian@kansas-kofc.org). Is your council's history current? The 2016-2017 report was due on June 30, 2017, this can be turned in any time but don't limit your council history to one report, send articles that have been published in your Diocesan papers about your council or church 25, 50, 75 etc. celebrations. We must continue to preserve our history for future generations. Please be sure to appoint a Council Historian and make sure your council's history is filed with State Historian Jim Pritchard at the above website which will make it easier to read by anyone.



## INSURANCE AGENCY MESSAGE

The Knights of Columbus agency department is proud to congratulate the following men for achieving the honor of Field Agent of the Month for their respective agencies:

Eastern Kansas Agency: David Soukup wrote \$1,931,000 in life insurance protection on members and their families in June.

Central Kansas Agency: Adam Bruna wrote \$1,900,000 in life insurance protection on members and their families in June.

Western Kansas Agency: J. J. Deges wrote \$4,250,000 in life insurance protection on members and their families in June.

The three agencies combined to write a total of \$39,799,083 in life insurance during the month of June.

Please join us in congratulating the following men for their outstanding performance. These men lead the state or the Knights of Columbus insurance program in June of 2017.

David Soukup  
Darin Reed  
J. J. Deges

Adam Bruna  
Tyler Meyer  
Kirby Schmelzle

Luke Baker  
Mark McKnett  
Bill Weber

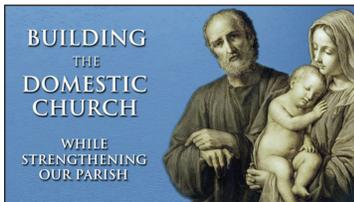
Steve Schmidt  
Dan Reed  
Chris Hoffmann

If you or someone you know would like to join our winning team of Field Agents please call 1-866-391-8781 for more information.

**Dale A. Weber**  
**State Secretary**  
**514 E. 33rd St. South**  
**Wellington, KS 67152**

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