



# The Explorer

A Publication  
Of The  
Kansas  
Knights of Columbus

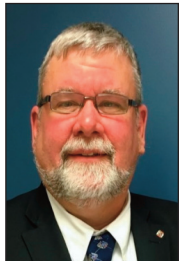
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October 2016

## STATE DEPUTY'S MESSAGE

What does it mean to be a member of the Knights of Columbus? The answer varies with each individual.



For some, it might mean supporting our Priests and in particular, our seminarians and religious through the Adopt-A-Seminarian program. For others, it could mean raising funds to assist people with intellectual disabilities via our annual Commitment to Humanities "Tootsie Roll" program. Others promote the Culture of Life during Respect Life Month. Still others support the needy, sick, elderly or youth in our communities. Being a Knight of Columbus means all these and more. They are all experiences we have to come to know as Knights members. As leaders in the Catholic Church, we are challenged to live the Gospel in our daily lives by building a better world one charitable act at a time. Our service programs should reflect our involvement and commitment to our Church, Youth, Family, Community, Culture of Life and Council. Have you and your council put your Action Plan into place?

Being a Knight also means asking other Catholic men and their families to join in our cause. Being a member is an experience they will cherish for a lifetime. For our Order to continue to grow and do more and greater things for our Church, we should always ask others to join us in supporting our programs. This could be your son, nephew, friend, neighbor or co-worker. Invite them to celebrate our Faith. While the example of our daily lives and our service programs may spark some interest in the Knights of Columbus, we must take the next step and ask them to join us. Each new member has his own talents to add to the Order and his council. Once a new member has taken his Admission Degree, use his talents by encouraging him to take an active role within the council.

The Knights of Columbus is a Catholic, Family, Fraternal, Service Organization. WE must each do our part if it is to continue to merit this distinction. As we plan our council activities and recruitment efforts let us do so by asking ourselves are we doing all we can for our fellowman?

Are we truly "Fishers of Men – Building the Domestic Church?"

Vivat Jesus  
Vincent Melvin III, State Deputy

## **Francis G. Drouhard named District Master of Kansas**

Francis G. Drouhard of Danville, Kansas and a Past State Deputy of Kansas, was recently named to the position of District Master of the Fourth Degree. In his new duties he will oversee the Fourth Degree Assemblies in the State of Kansas.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### **OCTOBER:**

### **October is Respect Life Month—Schedule a Culture of Life Fundraiser or Seminar Order wide Church Drive**

- 2 Respect Life Sunday – participate in life chains, culture of life rallies, etc.
- 6 Formation / Knighthood Degrees - District 9 - Host: 6673 - Location: Lenexa Holy Trinity-CO: Pat Winchester
- 7-9 Conduct Commitment to Humanities (Tootsie Roll) Campaign
- 9 Formation / Knighthood Degrees - District 25 - Host: 1832 - Location: Manhattan - Seven Dolores - CO: Rottinghaus
- 10 Columbus Day Observed
- 22 Formation / Knighthood Degrees - District 10 - Host: 10407 - Location: Gardner - CO: Wagner
- 23 Formation / Knighthood Degrees - District 31 - Host: 3114 - Location: Clonmel - CO: J. Roth
- 23 Formation / Knighthood Degrees - District 45 - Host: 6984 - Location: Hays - CO: Kaiser
- 25 Deadline for GKs to return Religious Ed Fund Tickets & Donations to DD
- 28 Deadline to report Soccer Challenge reports to Supreme & State Council
- 29 Patriotic Degree Exemplification in Seneca
- 29-30 5th Sunday Rosary Prayer Service and or Corporate Communion
- 30 Formation / Knighthood Degrees - District 16 - Host: 796 - Location: Fr Scott - CO: Winchester

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS *Continued*

### **NOVEMBER:**

#### **Remember Deceased Members with Memorial Mass**

- 1 Deadline for DD's to return Religious Education Fund Donations & Tickets to State Religious Education Fund Chairman
- 1 Submit checks and Commitment to Humanities Report to State Treasurer
- 5 Deadline to order Free Throw Contest Kits from Supreme
- 9 Admission Degree - Council #1149 - Paola
- 13 Formation / Knighthood Degrees - District 19 - Host: 8059 - Location: Topeka Mater Dei - CO: Melvin
- 20 Formation / Knighthood Degrees - District 17 - Host: 3316 - Location: Scammon - CO: Weber

#### **Congratulations to our State Knight and Families of the Month**

**Knight of the Month Winner:** August – Dale Miller, Council 883 Pittsburg, District 16

#### **Family of the Month Winners of a Holy Family Plaque from Supreme were:**

Jeremy & Julie Rabe Council 2955 – Dodge City, Victor & Pattie Straub Council 4458- Derby, Lewis & Judy Scully Council 6817 – Iola, Matthew & Mary Hoisington of Council 10834 – Lansing.

### STATE CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

What do Venerable Fr. Michael McGivney, St. Teresa of Calcutta, Sister Adele Brise, and José Sánchez del Río have in common? Don't know? Each in their own way evangelized the people about God. They would not have used the word "evangelized" in their time, but that is the word we use now to designate spreading the good news.

Venerable Fr. Michael McGivney was concerned for the widow and the orphan. He lived in a time of discrimination against Catholics, suspicion and hate. He lived in a time when people struggled to live their lives and the loss of the bread-winner was usually devastating to the family. With the formation of the Knights of Columbus, Fr. McGivney spread the good news of Jesus Christ to the suffering, letting them know that they were not alone; God was with them through his people.

St. Teresa of Calcutta was concerned for the outcast, the lonely, the forgotten and forsaken. By bringing the sick and dying into her "home" to die with love and dignity, she spread the good news that Jesus was with the suffering, they were not alone, God was with them through his people.

Sister Adele Brise is probably unfamiliar to you. She lived in Champion (formerly Robinsonville), Wisconsin. An immigrant from Belgium, she received a visit from the Virgin Mary in 1859. From the experience of that apparition she dedicated her life to teaching the ignorant children and orphans the simple practices of the Catholic Faith. She taught them how to make the sign of the cross, their prayers, and the importance of the sacraments. In 2010, the sight of the apparitions was declared worthy of the expression of faith, raising the Shrine of Our Lady of Good Health to the same level as Lourdes, Fatima, and Guadalupe. It is located just outside Green Bay, on a small peninsula in Lake Michigan. I encourage you to look it up on the internet to learn more, because it will simply amaze you of this little known but important fact of Catholic history in our country. Sr. Adele spread the good news that Jesus was with the orphan, the ignorant, the uncatechized, that they were not alone, God was with them through his people.

José Sánchez del Río lived in Mexico 90 years ago. It was a time of great persecution of the church by the Mexican Government. The civil leaders wanted to destroy and eliminate the church. Many fought back with prayer, action, and some with violence. Many priests were killed, some members of the Knights of Columbus. José, a fourteen year old boy, along with many people, maintained his faith. He did what he could to help people live their faith in the face of persecution, discrimination, hate and anger. You can see his story in the movie "For Greater Glory". I encourage you to watch it. It is rated "R" for violence. Personally, I think it should be rated "PG-13". José will be canonized by Pope Francis October 16th. Through his suffering, José spread the good news that Jesus was with the suffering and persecuted, that they were not alone, God was with them through his people.

The initiative *Building the Domestic Church: The Family Fully Alive*, will begin soon. It will be a simple tool we can use to evangelize, to spread the good news, to our families, church members, and neighbors. Let Jesus and the Virgin Mary guide you in your ministry!

Fr. Daniel L. Gardner, State Chaplain

### STATE MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

October is Church Drive month order wide. Every Council in the state should be planning on doing a church drive of some type during the month. If you need help on how to do a church drive just go to [kofc.org](http://kofc.org) and search on "Church drive". How to conduct a church drive will be one of the top links that comes up. Your District Deputy has also received and

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should have sent out to Grand Knights an electronic version of all the materials that you can order for the church drive. It's not too late to plan a church drive for this month on even early November.

I do want to announce a couple of the monthly winners of the "Party to go Cooler". July's Winner was Council 1029 – Junction City. The August winner was 1372 – Lawrence. September's winner will be announced very soon. The way for the Council to get into the drawing is make sure your District Deputy has filled out the Form 450 for any of the Admission Degree ceremonies. Supreme has changed the form this year and now only takes the submission from the District Deputy. Councils no longer fill out this form. If you are uncertain if your DD has done it, ask him.

Keep recruiting hard gentlemen. We need to continue to grow our Councils so we can do more good works of charity. We change lives by the work we do. The only way that continues in future generations is by recruiting NOW. Go be a FISHER OF MEN!

Vivat Jesus,  
John W. Schulz  
State Membership Director

### STATE PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

This past week I had the privilege of meeting with a Grand Knight and his Parish priest. We enjoyed a leisurely lunch and discussed topics of who won what sporting event over the weekend but then turned our intentions on the more important discussion of how to implement our newest initiative of "Building the Domestic Church While Strengthening our Parish" and one of its programs vital programs, "Family Fully Alive".

St. John Paul II so often said, "Families become what you are." As October quickly arrives so does the kick-off of the "Family Fully Alive" program. These booklets are available to ALL Councils through Knights Gear or in a PDF form on [www.KofC.org/Domestic Church](http://www.KofC.org/DomesticChurch). It can help families strengthen their Catholic bonds it monthly messages of meditation, a family project and scripture reading along with ideas on how to assist their faith community. There were so many ways to include this into Parish life by getting this booklet into the hands of our Catholic families. Some ideas to integrate, blend and share this important program are easy.

- To handout as part of a welcome students as they attend PSR or Catholic Schools.
- Share and visit with our ladies of Daughters of Isabella and Altar Society and Guilds
- Visit your Parish youth groups or Harvest House and share the booklets

- Insert prayers and ideas from the website into Knights newsletters, Parish and School bulletins and newsletters
- Add content into Parish, Catholic School and Knights websites.

As Knights we lead by example, last year the Knights of Columbus contributed over \$3,268,247 dollars to charities across the state. Our Fraternal Year is underway and we will be in the public's eye much of this month representing the Knights of Columbus organizations, our Catholic Church and to Christian families everywhere.

- Beginning of "Family Fully Alive"
- Commitment for Humanities Drive October 7-9
- Soliciting donations for our Religious Education Fund Raffle
- Fundraisers for a new Ultra-Sound Machine for your area

Pope Francis stated, "The main contributions to the pastoral care of families is offered by the parish, *which is the family of families*, where small communities, ecclesial movements and associations live in harmony." Brother Knights by investing in our Parish Life our values, our faith and our commitment we are building our Parish, the Catholic Church and the Knights of Columbus. It is by your actions we will attract other Catholic gentlemen to join our order and help us build the Family of Families that Pope Francis speaks of.

I go back to the beginning of my article. In a simple meeting with the Parish Priest explore existing and new possibilities. How can we, the Knights of Columbus, our councils help our Parish Priest? How can we, the Knights, the Knights families, help our Parish Church? These are the building blocks of the foundation of the "Building the Domestic Church". Gathering the needs of the Parish gives us more opportunities to help our Christian community. This opens opportunities for seasoned knights and new members to lead projects for their Parish. All of this goes back to our roots of the Knights and Father McGivney's vision of helping our Parish family. It is nothing new, the Knights have had many positive programs such as the Adopt a Seminarian program which continues to show our solidarity with our priest but we must now take one more step forward. This could not have been accomplished by just one individual, it took many Assemblies, Councils, Districts and their support as well as that of each Knight's family to obtain the goals and commitments of time and talent. We work and pray together to make all of our goals realities.

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We the Knights are here to help reaffirm our support of our Catholic foundation spiritually and physically. Continuing to support and become more involved with our parish and building that strengthens that foundation with our parish work we are building a stronger Catholic Church.

## CHURCH ACTIVITIES

### *Adopt-A-Seminarian*

The list of seminarians and the address of the seminary they are attending has been sent to all councils and assemblies. There are currently 106 seminarians needing our support as they assist us in “Building The Domestic Church While Strengthening Our Parishes”. Please send Vocations Chairman Gary Wondra your pledge card soon so he can confirm all seminarians are adopted and receiving equal amounts of financial assistance. Pledge cards may also be submitted via the website [www.kansas-kofc.org](http://www.kansas-kofc.org). Gary would like to thank those councils that have already submitted their pledge cards. Consider sending your adopted seminarians at least half of your council’s pledges now as classes have begun. Be sure your council prays the “Prayer for Vocations” at every meeting. Send your adopted seminarians cards and letters of encouragement. Continue to pray for all seminarians as they discern their calling to the Priesthood.

### *Religious Education Fund Applications*

State Chaplain Rev. Dan Gardner reminds all councils that **September 30** was the **deadline** for submitting applications for Religious Education assistance.

### *Religious Education Fund Raising*

There are only a few weeks left to distribute your raffle tickets for donations to the Religious Education Fund Drawing. Religious Education Fundraising Chairman Steve Abels states that October 25 is the deadline to return your donations and tickets to the District Deputy. Please call Steve for additional tickets if your council has the ability to distribute more than you were allotted. The goal of this program is to distribute \$102,000 in Kansas for Catholic education. The success of this program desperately depends on all councils returning every ticket with a \$100 donation attached to it. Twenty-eight prizes will be given away totaling \$68,000. The odds of winning are better than one in seventy-five!

## YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Youth Activities Director Bob Duffin reminds us November 5 is the deadline to order your Free Throw Kit for your Council Free Throw Competition. The order

form is found online at [www.kofc.org/forms](http://www.kofc.org/forms) along with the order form for the Substance Abuse Poster Contest Kit. Why not order both kits at the same time? Grand Knights are reminded to make sure you have a gymnasium reserved for your competition. Bob also reminds all councils the deadline for reporting the soccer challenge results is November 1 to both Supreme and the State Council. Materials will soon be mailed to all parochial school principals throughout Kansas to promote our annual essay contest. Look for ways to promote the contest in your council.

## FAMILY ACTIVITIES

### *Family Life*

- October is here and a great time for family activities!!! “Building the Domestic Church – The Family Fully Alive.” This book is a great resource for activities that families and councils can do each month. Please visit [kofc.org/familyfullyalive](http://kofc.org/familyfullyalive) for more information.

- Please note the 2016-2017 Marion Prayer Icon travel schedule posted on the State website, [www.kansas-kofc.org](http://www.kansas-kofc.org).

- Finally, Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori provides us with a great article, Columbia, September, 2016, Healthy Families, Healthy Society. Where does your ripple start?

Scott Nichols Family Life Director, [family@kansas-kofc.org](mailto:family@kansas-kofc.org)

## COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

### *Commitment to Humanities (Campaign for People with Intellectual Disabilities)*

The Commitment to Humanities (Campaign for People with Intellectual Disabilities), also known as the Tootsie Roll Drive, is rapidly approaching and is scheduled for the weekend of October 7,8 & 9. If you haven’t secured your distribution locations, this should be done immediately. Be sure to work with your neighboring councils, especially in metropolitan areas, to assure there is no double coverage. News releases have been given to all Grand Knights by the District Deputies for inclusion in your local newspaper. A photo of Gov. Sam Brownback signing our proclamation is also available by contacting Chairman Barney Wolters at [community@kansas-kofc.org](mailto:community@kansas-kofc.org). A public service announcement by WSU Basketball Coach Gregg Marshall has been provided to all Kansas Association of Broadcasting member stations. We expect these announcements to be played on the air the week of 9/23. However, Grand Knights **must** contact local radio stations and ask them to play the

Tootsie Roll PSA to assure maximum participation. The PSA may be heard at <http://kab.net/Programs/RadioPSAsMP3/>. Our goal is to provide the monetary support our friends with intellectual disabilities both deserve and rely on us for. To hit the goal, we must first attain our Target of raising \$400,000. To attain this, Chairman Barney Wolters reminds all councils to seek additional distributions locations, begin your distribution early each day and continue throughout the day.

### ***Pennies from Heaven***

Chairman Bruce Luehring reminds all Grand Knights that their councils should be holding fund raisers and working on items for the auction and Country Store at the State Convention next spring. Involve all members and their family's talents to make items for the Country Store. Let Bruce know what items your councils are going to donate for the store and auction. District Deputies are asked to actively involve all councils in this very worthy state program.

### **CULTURE OF LIFE ACTIVITIES**

The Knights of Columbus recognizes October as the "Respect of Life Month" and the "Month of the Rosary". The Culture of Life Director, Lino S. Munoz would like to take this time to ask you to sponsor a Culture of Life rosary before or after Mass in your church. He would also urge you to take part in a Pro-Life Chain in your area. Also, now would be a good time for councils to plan the year-end fundraisers along with a Baby Shower or Baby Bottle Drive in the month of January and to begin working on qualifying for the Evangelium Vitae Award. Remember, "It is our duty to help every mother in need." Carl Anderson, Supreme Knight

### **COUNCIL ACTIVITIES**

#### ***Council Events***

Tom Hablieb suggests that now is an excellent time to plan and hold a Health Services Program. Some examples are blood drives, blood pressure clinics, CPR training and the organ donor program. Don't forget to include the time spent on Health Services Programs in your Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity Report - Form 1728.

As fall approaches, football is back and the baseball post season has begun. Consider organizing a watch party centered on your favorite teams to promote fraternity. Invite members of the parish to the event. This type of council activity is the perfect recruiting venue.

#### ***Fraternal***

Please remember to submit your Knight of the Month application by the 15th of each month in order to be eligible for the State Knight of the Month. Take the

time to recognize a member for their outstanding contribution to your council, fill out the application and submit it as soon as possible to Fraternal Director Mike Barnard via mail, e-mail or the online application found on the [www.kansas-kofc.org](http://www.kansas-kofc.org) website. Every council should participate in this program. Plan your November Memorial Mass for deceased brothers this month. Consult your Parish Priest and remember to invite the families of the deceased brothers. Visit the [www.kansas-kofc.org](http://www.kansas-kofc.org) website to sign up for the States email program.

#### ***Publicity***

Publicity Chairman Mike Barnard reminds all councils to continue to publicize your activities. It is important that we get the word out about our activities so that we can get more men involved and active in the Knights. Using social media to promote your council will produce outstanding results.

#### ***Webmaster***

Did you know that the Kansas State Council of the Knights of Columbus maintains a website? It is located at [www.kansas-kofc.org](http://www.kansas-kofc.org). It contains lots of useful information that is intended to facilitate communication between the State Council and members across the state. Here is a sample of what can be found on the website:

- A calendar of events, including dates that forms are due along with the dates of Admission, Formation, Knighthood and Patriotic Degrees.
  - Copies of state reports and forms that can be filled out and submitted electronically, via post office or printed, scanned and emailed.
  - Contact information for all state officers, directors, chairmen, and district deputies.
  - Contact information for all general agents and field agents.
  - A listing of councils and assemblies (by city or council/assembly number) including meeting date, time, and location as well as contact information for the Grand Knight and Faithful Navigator.
  - Prayer requests.
- This is only a sample of the information available on the website. We will continue to work to improve and expand this information to make the website an even more valuable resource for all of our members.

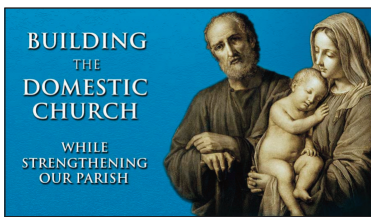
#### ***History***

State Historian Jim Pritchard reminds all councils to get their council history up to date. The annual update

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**“Fishers of Men”**

reports will leave a documented legacy to the future members of the councils and the Order in Kansas. He reminds councils that the History reports due date has changed from the April due date to July 1st due date. This will give more time to complete the report and send in. This report is one of the requirements for the new “Sunflower Award for Excellence” so make sure it is filled out complete and submitted on time. Reports are for the fraternal year, July 1 to June 30th, and not the calendar year Jan. 1 to Dec. 31st. Please encourage the reports to be filled out on the State website for clarity instead of hand written. If the report has to be hand written make sure it is legible for other generations to read.

Tom Schmeidler, State Program Director

**OCTOBER INSURANCE REPORT**

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

Eastern Kansas Agency: David Maggard wrote \$4,328,000 in life insurance protection on members and their families.

Central Kansas Agency: Wade Greif wrote \$1,739,653 in life insurance protection on members and their families.

Western Kansas Agency: Darin Reed wrote \$1,920,000 in life insurance protection on members and their families.

The three agencies combined to write a total of \$45,585,669 in life insurance during the month of August. 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 August of 2016: Darin Reed, Wade Greif, John Schibi, Kirby Schmelzle, Adam Cebula, J. J. Degers, Zachary Caro, John Reboulet, Hector Soler, Shaun McGovern, David Soukup, Dan Reed, and Adam Bruna

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.