



Buckeye Bulletin

Volume 1 - Issue 8

February - 2026

State Chaplain - Fr. John Paul Walker, OP

State Deputy - Mike Felerski

State Advocate - Tony Offenberger

State Secretary - Jim Maslach

State Warden - M. Stewart Vetter

State Treasurer - Chris Sarka

Immediate Past State Deputy - Jeff Kiliany

From Our State Deputy

The second weekend of January the state council hosted it's Mid Fraternal Year District Deputy meeting in Columbus. We were honored to have as our Supreme Representative, Robert Ennis, Vice President of Membership Growth for the order. I am happy to say that Mr. Ennis was impressed with what he saw and experienced that weekend. Aside from district deputy training on how to help councils grow, there was a primary focus on our order's Cor initiative. This included an expanded version of an actual Cor gathering. Finally there were sessions on how district deputies can help their councils achieve greater success. Our goal is to always provide our councils with the resources to be successful, to be a Star Council, and the mission of your district deputy is to help you in that achievement.



Michael J. Felerski
State Deputy
mfelerski@icloud.com

During the State Tour at the start of the new fraternal year, I showed three key areas that make for a successful council: Growth, Cor, and, of course, our Programs. As State Deputy I receive reports daily on activities and programs councils are running. But I also know that there are so many more that go unreported. I have heard from councils who explain why they don't report on activities or run announcements in their church bulletins; "We don't do this for the accolades or the recognition". I understand that sentiment, however, as our worthy State Chaplain points out, we can take a lesson from scripture:

No one who lights a lamp conceals it with a vessel or sets it under a bed; rather, he places it on a lamp stand so that those who enter may see the light. (Luke 8:16).

Regardless of the program's size, every initiative undertaken by Knights has a significant impact on individuals' lives. Even if you only had one free throw participant, is it not worthwhile to acknowledge and celebrate that child's achievement? And by highlighting their participation in the district free throw, we can instill a sense of pride and accomplishment. This recognition holds immense value for the child, and fosters a sense of specialness and self-worth along with pride in the community.

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LET
US
KNOW!

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Yes, we should be proud of our accomplishments. After the councils in Mansfield got together, fundraised and purchased a new ultrasound machine, they were part of an event with the pregnancy center and local press to announce the acquisition. No one in town needs to ask the Knights, “what do you do?” they already know: We believe in life and we put our faith into action.



In the past, I have emphasized the significance of effective communication in the success of councils and assemblies. This encompasses various forms of communication, including emails, council newsletters, social media posts, which are all aspects of public relations. As former Buckeye Bulletin editor Harding Christ stated, “**Public relations is so very important**”. This simple and concise statement encapsulates the crucial role of communication in building community support for our endeavors.

Let us continue our great council programs, both large and small. As the Knights of Columbus “*We Are Called*” to make a positive impact on countless lives and our world through our acts of corporal works of mercy. Thank you always for all that you do.

Blessed Michael McGivney, ora pro nobis.

Michael J. Felerski - State Deputy



State Chaplain's Monthly Reflection

*Click below to access videos from a monthly series by Ohio's State Chaplain of the Knights of Columbus - **Father John Paul Walker O.P.**

[Video Series Archive:](#)

[January - Vocation of the Laity, Part 2](#)

[December - Vocation of the Laity, Part 1](#)

[November - The Four Marks of the Church](#)

[October - “What is the Church?”](#)



Fr. John Paul Walker, OP
State Chaplain



2026 SUPER CASH BONANZA



Dear Brother Knights,

I pray you and your family had a very Merry Christmas and safe New Year celebration! We are now excited to announce the 2026 Super Ca\$h Bonanza Charity Campaign! This year, we once again aim to raise \$1,000,000 for local councils and the Ohio Charity Foundation through effective fundraising.

Boost results **by partnering with non-profits, parish ministries, and community groups**. Invite them to help sell tickets and share proceeds to support their missions—this strategy improves both your sales and community impact!

Tentative Tour Schedule:

Diocese	Location	Date	Time
Steubenville	Council 478 - 312 Franklin St. Marietta, OH 45750	2/5/2026	7:00 PM
Steubenville	Council 4361 - 218 Legion Dr. Mingo Junction, OH 43938	2/6/2026	7:00 PM
Youngstown	Council 15458 - 3430 Saint Michael Blvd NW, Canton, OH 44718	2/7/2026	10:00 AM
Cleveland	Council 16373 - 2345 Bassett Rd Westlake, OH 44145	2/7/2026	2:00 PM
Toledo	Council 678 49 East Perry Street Tiffin, OH 44883	2/13/2026	7:00 PM
Toledo	Council 1039 111 Elliot Rd Defiance, OH 4351	2/14/2026	10:00 AM
Cincinnati	Council 13874 - St Paul 1000 Wenger Rd. Englewood, OH 45322	2/14/2026	3:00 PM
Cincinnati	Council 3382 - 11144 Spinner Ave Cincinnati, OH 45241	2/14/2026	7:00 PM
Columbus	Council 5776 - Klinger Center 313 N State St Westerville, OH 43082	2/15/2026	3:00 PM

***Note: remote locations for webcast are TBD for Youngstown and Cleveland. More details will be sent via email once confirmed.**

Fraternally,

Christopher Sarka
2026 SBC Chairman, State Treasurer
Ohio State Council
Knights of Columbus

The image shows a promotional graphic for the 2026 Charity Campaign SUPER CASH BONANZA. On the left is a ticket stub with fields for FULL NAME, ADDRESS, CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE, PHONE, SELLER, and COUNCIL. The main graphic features a night sky with fireworks and lists the prizes: 1st Prize \$49,680 (Payable \$14/Month for 10 Years), 2nd Prize \$18,780 (Payable \$13/Month for 5 Years), and 3rd Prize \$12,720 (Payable \$7/Month for 5 Years). It also lists various other prize tiers from \$4,999 to \$1,000. The drawing date is May 23, 2026, at the Hilton-Columbus at Eason, Columbus, OH. Tickets should be made payable to Knights of Columbus and returned to Christopher Sarka, State Treasurer, 7239 Winterbark Ave, New Albany, OH 43054. A donation of \$5.00 is suggested. On the right, a green banner reads 'OVER \$108,000 In Cash Prizes'.



Amplify Your Lenten Preparation With Cor

Brother Knights,

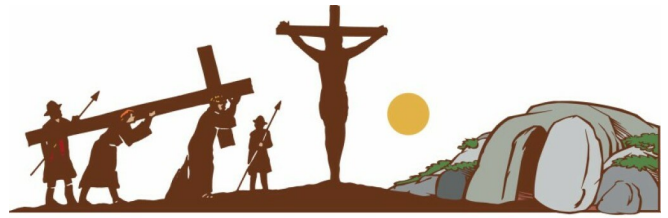
I am happy to report that the Cor training at the Mid-Year/DD meeting was a success. My team and I received great feedback from the DD's in attendance. The consensus was that Cor is easy to start with and even easier to implement. I heard many

times that "my councils are already doing something like this." That is fantastic!

I would like to remind you that each council should appoint a Council EFF director to begin receiving valuable information, tips, content, and ideas from the Cor office at Supreme. You can submit the director's name even more easily now on the new Knights of Columbus website. Simply go to kofc.org and type in **Council EFF Director** in the search box. The form will be at the top of the list. Please be aware that it may take three or four weeks for this submission to be reflected in the report I receive.

As we are preparing for Lent, I wanted to pass along some ideas for Cor over the next couple of months.

Prayer: Using Stations of the Cross as the prayer element for your Cor gathering can be a fantastic way to bring the men of your parish/council together. Catholic Information Services (CIS) offers a great resource for this. **CIS363** "The Way of the Cross: Traditional and Modern Meditations Book" can be ordered or printed for convenience.



Formation: "Lent to Remember" is on Formed. It is four videos curated to help us explore the ways God reaches out to each of us with His mercy. Also available is "St. Joseph: Our Spiritual Father" video and discussion guide offers us a model of masculinity that is noble, strong, and self-emptying. It is available on kofc.org under Faith Resources. You can also just type it into the new search box.

Fraternity: I encourage you to have a soup supper or some other simple meal in tradition with fasting and abstaining. I know there will be a lot of Lenten fish fries, but this gives an opportunity to practice our faith.

I encourage all of you to be mindful of God's presence in your life during Lent as we await His rising on the third day and faith that He *will* come again.

Vivat Jesus,

Arron Mier - Director of Evangelization & Faith Formation



Arron Mier
Evangelization & Faith
Formation Director
kofcohioeff@gmail.com

2100 New Knights

For Now and for Our Future

60 Star Councils

Growth Team Ohio

Teamwork & Resources Mean Success

Wow! Can it really be February already? Seven months down and only five left in this Fraternal Year. Despite the fourteen inches of snow outside my window, it's already time to begin thinking of Spring and Growth, because before long, that snow will be gone and the grass will be greening up.

Has your council started planning for the "Growing Season"? NOW is the time to get your teams together and begin to think about how you'll reach your Growth goals for this year. Have you adopted the notion that *"Inviting is a mindset – not a date"* yet? This would be a great time to do so! Is your council calendar pegged to do a March recruitment drive? This is the time to get the ball rolling on your plans!

And your first phone call should be to your council Field Agent (or if you are in a Stass Agency area, to Charles Miller / Charles.Miller@kofc.org). The outstanding, runaway Growth success of the first half of the Fraternal Year was the discovery of the power the Brandon Chambers Process Growth Drive! When it comes to gaining new members for your council, this is a proven technique. The tight integration of the Field Agents, who have had extensive training on the implementation of the Brandon Chambers Process, with your council's members has been shown to produce results every time.



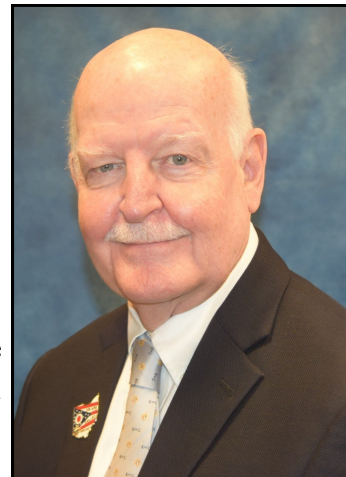
it's now our turn to extend that invitation. I look forward to your successes and as always, Vic Lauterbach, myself, and the rest of the Growth Specialty Team – and all the Field Agents – are happy to help you through the bumpy spots.

Our work isn't over, and we still have a journey ahead of us to try and reach 2,100 new men here in the Great State of Ohio with 60 STAR councils. Set your council goals high, communicate them to your fellow Brothers, then go out and start inviting!

Remember – Inviting is a mindset, not a date!

Vivat Jesus!

Mark Kosobud - State Growth Chairman



Mark Kosobud
State Growth Chairman
mkosobud@yahoo.com

Let's not forget our traditional tools – eMembership and the online join, eForm100's, personal invitations to friends and family. Use the many opportunities that you are involved with each day – Delta Church Drives and Fishers of Men initiatives, your COR events, all your Faith in Action programs – these put you in the position of being the best resource for the Catholic men of your parishes.

And it's also not too soon to be thinking of your council's work to achieve STAR council for this year. Ask your council leaders to share where your council is along the journey to a STAR reward by passing around Ken Girt's Star Council Report. Although Ohio's goal for STAR councils is 60 for this fraternal year, it never hurts to have more!

Remember, it's up to us to provide the motive for a man to join us – just as someone once asked each of us to become a Knight,



Deadlines Loom for Program Reports and ...of the Year Selections

Worthy Brother Knights of the Great State of Ohio,

Now that February is here, there are just two and a half months left to report your program activities on the state website. If you have not noticed already, the rest of the new Faith in Action Programs have been added to the drop boxes along with the other Faith in Action Programs. Now councils that choose to follow these new programs can select them as if they were there the whole time. So the state general program contest has been updated and includes these new Faith in Action Programs.

To reiterate what I said at the district deputy meeting last month, when your council follows a program, just let the state director know in the description box how many times or how often you do the activity. If it is monthly, then just say that. If it is two or three times a year, then say that. Also, if you are following a program that involves many activities, then let the state director know the different activities the council does once the last activity is completed. Do not report your activities early. Report them when completed or at the end of every program your council runs.

As I mentioned above, February is now here, which means you have only two months left to work on your Honorees of the Year. Remember, these are **due by April 1, 2026!** These write-ups should provide well-written information. Explain the honoree's involvement within the church/parish to which they belong. Explain the honoree's involvement with the Knights of Columbus. Explain the honoree's involvement with-in the community in which they live, and explain why this honoree was chosen.

Also, supporting documentation such as letters, testimonials, news clippings, photographs, and pamphlets are most welcome and encouraged as part of the write-up. The same goes for Best Activity of the Year, **due April 15, 2026.** For Best Activity of the Year write-ups, these programs need to be organized by the council or involve significant participation by the council members. These programs must also engage members by enhancing faith or spirituality, serving a charitable purpose, or a combination of the two. The description of the program should reference how they meet these criteria.

Also, these write-ups need to include the program title and the program date. Include participation of both members and non-members for a total of participants, as well as total volunteer hours, program planning (cost and time), members recruited and donations. Finally, provide the program's purpose, goals, accomplishments, and why it deserves to win.

If you have any questions regarding these write-ups or reporting your activities on the state website, please contact me or the specific Faith in Action State Program Director. We have a few months left in the program year. Please continue to submit your activities.

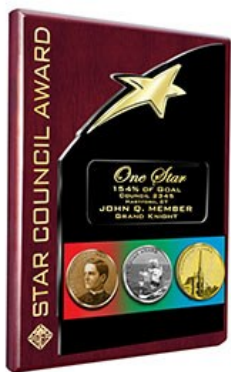
Fraternally,

Tim Mangan - State General Program Director



Tim Mangan
State General
Program Director
timangan@icloud.com





7 Councils Qualify for Mid-Year Award

My Brother Knights,

The State Council had planned to hold the Mid-Year Star Council Award Incentive Drawing at the recent District Deputy Meeting in Columbus but the drawing was delayed to ensure all qualifying councils were included. The drawing was for \$100 Wal-Mart Gift cards.



Ken Girt, PSD
Star Council Director
girtken@sssnet.com

To qualify for this drawing, a council must accomplish the following by January 1, 2026:

1. Have Form 365 and Form 185 submitted.
2. Have all four council officers either “compliant” or “pending” for Safe Environment.
3. Have at least one Fraternal Benefit Event credited with 50% of your council’s participation quota.
4. Achieve 50% of your council’s membership quota.
5. Have two activities credited in each of the four Faith in Action categories of the “We are Called” State Program Contest.

We are happy to announce that seven councils qualified for the drawing:

- Gilmour Council 310
- Sandusky Council 546
- Archbishop Elder Council 1195
- Rt Rev Msgr Anthony P Boeff Council 5582
- Joseph Cardinal Bernardin Council 12359
- St John the Evangelist Council 13608
- St Dominic-Delhi Council 15533



And per the State Deputy’s recent video, the winners of the two \$100 Wal-Mart Gift cards were:

Councils 310 and 13608

These gift cards will be presented to each council at the February Road Show. Congratulations to all our seven qualifying councils and our two winners!

The February Star Council Report will be released soon as well as the February Supreme Awards Report showing the status of all award criteria. I encourage all councils to continue working on the Star Council Award.

Ken Girt, PSD - State Star Council Director

girtken@sssnet.com 330-





Winter's Chill Affords Opportunities to Help Others

Community



As I type this, I am preparing for Ohio's next winter storm and my thoughts go towards Groundhog Day and Punxsutawney Phil. The familiar tradition goes, if the groundhog sees his shadow, we can expect six more weeks of winter. This year, hopefully old Phil is in a sleeping slumber and doesn't see his shadow. However, if he does see it, unfortunately it means a longer cold season for our community. While we might groan at the prospect of continued chilly days, it's important to remember that winter brings with it unique opportunities for us to help those in need.

Hopefully, local councils took full advantage of the Supreme Council's "Buy One, Get One" (BOGO) offer for coats for kids. These coat drives are essential, ensuring children in our neighborhoods have the warm clothing they need to face the extended winter. If your council didn't participate in the Supreme Council's BOGO initiative, there is still time to make a difference. Organizing local clothing drives is a fantastic way to gather coats,

gloves, hats, and scarves for families who may not have the means to keep their children warm. Every contribution, no matter how small, can help a child stay comfortable and healthy during these cold months.

As we look ahead to February, another meaningful opportunity arises: spreading kindness and appreciation through "Valentines for Vets" and first responders. This simple gesture—sending handmade cards or notes—can brighten the day of veterans and those who bravely serve our community every day. Whether it's a heartfelt message, a drawing from a child, or a thoughtful thank you, these valentines show our gratitude and remind recipients that they are valued and remembered.

Let's embrace the spirit of giving this winter. Through coat drives and heartfelt valentines, we can come together to support those who need it most, turning the chill of winter into an opportunity for warmth and community.

Vivat Jesus!

Matt Smith - State Community Director



Matt Smith
Community Director
matt.smith1974kofc@gmail.com



February 18th

**Ash
Wednesday**

Remember you are dust
and to dust you shall return
Genesis 3 : 19





Healing the Wounds of Sin - Reconciliation and Restoration

We can look put together and still be bleeding inside.

We can run the job, manage the schedule, keep the lights on, keep our word, and show up for the people who count on us. We can look like men who have it handled. And then, when the house is quiet, the truth rises. The mind races. The heart tightens. The soul feels divided. Old memories, habits, grudges, cravings. Regrets we buried. And beneath it

Faith

all, a fear most of us would rather deny than acknowledge: If people really knew us, would they still respect us?

That gap between the man people see and the man we carry inside is exhausting. We stay "fine" in public and feel like an imposter in private. And we do not only hide from people. We hide from God.

We manage Him with performance, usefulness, busyness, and being "productive." We stay moving, so we do not have to sit still long enough to be seen, because silence holds up a mirror, and many of us are afraid of what we might find in the reflection: a man we do not recognize, a man our younger self would be disappointed in, a man our older self will regret.

So we keep control. We keep the narrative. We keep the mask. But that is not strength. That is the wounds of sin.

Sin is rarely just "I broke a rule." More often it is "Something in me is hurt, and I have been treating the pain with sin." We are men who learned to protect ourselves. Control disguised as competence. Resentment hidden under responsibility. Pride dressed up as high standards.

That wound, left untreated, does not just make us sin. It makes us guarded. It makes us capable of going through the motions while living divided inside. We can have it all together on paper and still be far from peace.

God does not want a mask. He wants a healed heart.

In the mirror, we learn the cause of sin is often self-protection dressed up as wisdom. It is control disguised as competence. It is resentment hidden under responsibility. It is "high standards" that are really pride, because when no one is watching, we still need to be impressive. When our mouth is shut, the mind keeps racing: improve something, fix something, plan something, control the environment, create movement, anything, so we do not have to be still long enough to look in the mirror.

Eventually, we start to recognize the real battle is not against the past. It is against control.

Control is the oldest hiding place. Control lets us manage pain without surrendering it. Control lets us remain "strong" without remaining humble. Control lets us avoid the one thing God wants: our honest heart, offered freely without hesitation.

That is why the silence works. When we step away from the modern world on purpose, the exits disappear.

Noise cannot drown it. A crowd cannot cover it. Motion cannot outrun it. When the distractions fade, the interior life becomes visible. The first time with the mirror comes like a freight train. The mind runs its own newsreel: scenes, motives, near-misses, compromises, resentments, things we "happily forgot." And we discover the hard truth: there is no hiding and no defense.



Chris Crum
Faith Director

chris-crum99@yahoo.com



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This is where God gives a gift: **compunction**.

Compunction is not self-hatred. It is not shame tourism. It is cleaning grief. It is sorrow inside mercy. It is the heart being pierced by truth and love at the same time. It hurts, but it does not crush. It exposes, but it does not discard. It says, "**I have not loved as I have been loved.**" and then, "**God is still calling me.**" And that piercing is not cruelty. It is the mercy of God refusing to let us stay divided.

This is why the story of the prodigal son is not sentimental. It is surgical. The son rehearses a speech. He expects punishment. He expects distance. He expects to earn his way back. But the Father runs. The Father embraces. The Father restores. The son still must come home, but he comes home to a Father who already knows the mess and does not look away.

That is reconciliation: homecoming. Not a courtroom, but a return to the One who calls us son.

In returning home, we must tell the difference between **guilt, shame, and mercy**.

Guilt can be grace. It says, "I DID wrong." It points us toward repair. Shame is darker. Shame says, "I AM wrong." Shame isolates. Shame numbs. Shame hides. Shame keeps a man stuck in the basement of his own soul with the lights off, calling it strength.

Mercy is different. Mercy tells the truth and keeps loving us while we face it. Mercy does not flatter us, and it does not discard us. Mercy says, "Stay here with Me. Let Me heal what you keep trying to manage."

This is why **Confession** is vital for a man who wants to be whole.

Confession is not a shame booth. Confession is a field hospital. It is where the divided man becomes one again. Hidden becomes spoken. Poison gets exposed to light. The burden stops growing in the dark. Many of us are trying to heal with secrecy and willpower, not because God withholds grace. Because there is a basement where we keep the sin we will not name. The thing we keep "meaning to deal with." The part of our story we do not want touched. We padlock it with busyness. We cover it with competence. We bury it under responsibility. We decorate it with "I'm fine." And we call it maturity.

But it is fear, because we think, if God sees this, we are finished.

The deeper truth is harder and better: God already sees it. The question is whether we will let Him enter it. Not to humiliate us. To heal us.

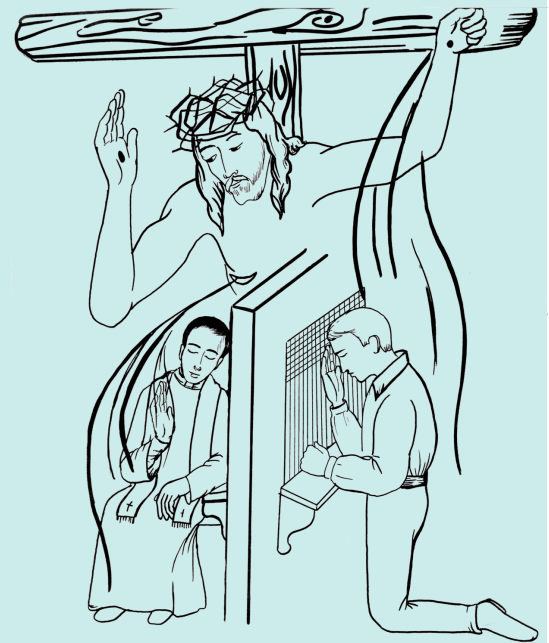
Vulnerability before God is not something that happens to us. It is something we choose. Not because we got caught. Not because we hit rock bottom. Not because someone forced our hand. Because we finally want freedom more than we want to stay protected. That is the turning point. That is where a man stops being "found out" and starts being freely known.

To support this healing, the tradition gives us three practical anchors. They are simple, but they are not easy.

First: **obedience builds stillness**. In the modern world, our mind is trained to react, check, refresh, respond, and stay "on." Obedience is how we stop. We obey silence from our phone. We obey the boundary that work ends. We obey that we will not chase every impulse. Stillness is not laziness; it is the inner discipline to stay present before God.

Second: **austerity builds solitude**. Solitude is not loneliness. It is stepping away from the modern world on purpose to step closer to God. Austerity is how we create space for that. We go without a comfort we rely on. We simplify our life. We refuse the endless conveniences that keep us padded and numb. Solitude is easier to enter when we are not addicted to constant comfort.

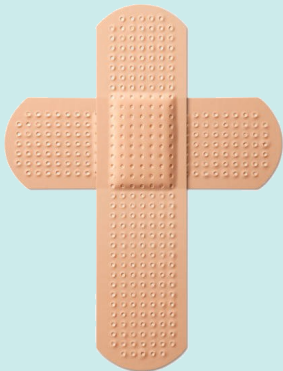
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Third: **fasting builds silence.** Fasting quiets the appetite, which is often the loudest voice in the room. When we learn to say "no" to the body, the inner storm calms. Hunger becomes prayer. Deprivation becomes offering. The point is not punishment. The point is freedom: the ability to hear God without our cravings shouting over Him.

In this light, temptations are no longer only threats. They are training. They reveal where we still reach for control, comfort, image, and self-protection. And every temptation becomes an opportunity to turn toward Christ. Choose God in the present moment. Let grace "tap in."



God does not expose us to shame us. He exposes us to heal us. He does not dig up the past to accuse us. He brings it into the light so it stops owning us. He is not a prosecutor hunting a conviction. He is a surgeon with steady hands, exact and unflinching, ordered toward healing.

And when we finally stop managing, stop hiding, stop negotiating, we find the astonishing reality that has been true the whole time.

He already knew.

And He did not look away.

And He has no interest in leaving us there.

Vivat Jesus!

Chris Crum - State Faith Director



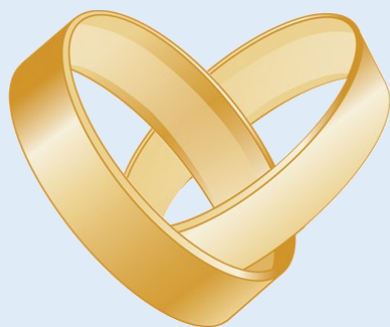
Family

Try Something New

Worthy Brother Knights of the Great State of Ohio.

For February Supreme Council is emphasizing two relatively newer programs under Family Programs. They are as follows:

Family Prayer Night: Carry on the spirit of the holiday season by promoting family prayer nights. This is an opportunity for council members, their families and the parish community to come together once a month for a family evening of prayer, dinner, and fellowship.



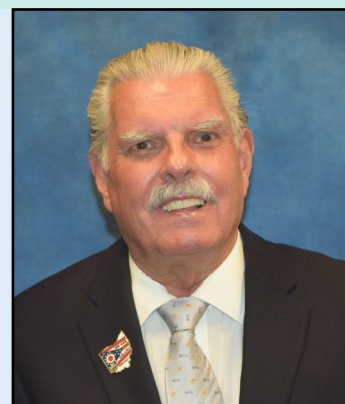
National Marriage Week: Encouraged by the USCCB Secretariat on Laity, Marriage, Family, Life, & Youth - February 7-14 is National Marriage Week.

The celebration of National Marriage Week is an opportunity to focus on the beauty of building a strong and dedicated life together through the sacrament of matrimony. World Marriage Sunday is February 8th. This year's theme from National Marriage Week USA is **"Together with Purpose"**. This theme honors the unique gifts of men & women, and how these gifts are expressed in the spirit of complementarity. We see men and women today lacking a sense of purpose, both in their personal lives and in relationships. Resources can be found at USCCB and For Your Marriage. Perhaps your council can celebrate National Marriage Week by asking your pastor for a special marriage blessing at one of the weekly masses. If your council does celebrate National Marriage Week,

make sure you fill out a report under Family Programs.

Vivat Jesus !!

Michael Freil - State Family Director



Michael Freil
Family Director
mcfreil2019@gmail.com



Life



**Special
Olympics**

Check Out These New Faith in Action Life Activities

Brothers,

The first thing I would like to touch on is a common misunderstanding about reporting programs under “Special Olympics”. Your program must be directly affiliated with the Special Olympics organization. Any other athletic activity for those with special needs are great “choice” Life activities, they just can’t be reported under Special Olympics. If they are, I will reject them and ask you to resubmit them as a choice program.

Secondly, it is my privilege to be able to select the “Knight of the Year” for each of the six dioceses and for the state. With only two months left to report your nomination, I wanted to clarify a couple things. If you want to honor someone in your council who has served for several decades and is less active now, do it! I will be looking at the diocesan and state awards for more of what has he done over the past year. You can certainly include things he has done in the past, but this past year will carry more weight. Also, you

can’t give me too much information! Let your report show the amount of respect that you have for these gentlemen!

Finally, with the anniversary of Roe vs. Wade about a week behind us, I’m starting to get reports in for marches and activities planned around that anniversary, and I’m looking forward to reading even more!

Vivat Jesus,

Mike Incorvati - State Life Director



**Mike Incorvati
Life Director**

mlbincorvati@gmail.com



Time for a Financial Check-up?

Brothers,

Do you have goals in mind for this year?

It may be February, but the year is still fresh. Instead of new year’s resolutions, I like to think in terms of setting concrete, actionable goals. I recommend that at least once a year, you make it a goal to take inventory of your financial health.

**Knights of Columbus
INSURANCE**
YOUR SHIELD FOR LIFE

You can start by asking yourself if you’ve experienced any major life events in the last year that may call for an update to your insurance plan or to acquire a policy for the first time. If you’ve gotten married, welcomed or are expecting a baby, changed careers or purchased a home, these are good reasons to evaluate your life insurance coverage.

Don’t forget that if your life insurance policy is dependent on your current employer, you could be underinsured and only protected while you are still working.

It’s also important to consider whether you’re on track to maintain the lifestyle you want in retirement. Do you know how much money you’ll need to retire comfortably?

It’s not too late to set goals for 2026.

If you have any questions, please contact your agent to schedule a time to meet. Thank you!

Jason Staas - State Insurance Liaison



**Jason Staas
Insurance Liaison**

Jason.Staas@kofc.org

Do you want to *waive* ^{Supreme} your *per capita* this year?*

Recruit your top men to become Knights of Columbus Financial Professionals! Just *one* successful candidate equals 100% reduction in assessment.*



Contact your Field Agent or our state's
2 General Agents

Jason Staas: 800-484-0304

John Spencer: 740-434-5158

1

Promote the Career to Your Members

Learn more about the career
at www.kofc.org/agentcareers
and visit Supplies online to find
all promotional materials

2

Have Your Candidate Apply

Scan the QR code below,
and be sure the candidate
uses the referral code:
2026Incentive

3

Your Candidate Becomes an Agent

After becoming an Agent,
he will complete a
training program

4

Your Agent Completes Six Months

Your candidate must
complete six months under
contract as an Agent for
your council to qualify

5

All Per Capita Fees Waived

All per capita fees waived
at the end of the applicable
billing cycles



**Knights of
Columbus®**

Referral Incentive only applies to FA's with at least 6 months of tenure.
Per Capita includes all Supreme Council Assessments for the 2026 Fraternal year.

To apply, scan the QR Code,
using the referral code:

2026Incentive



SCAN ME

20541 12/25

This applies only to a council's Supreme per capita. Council State per capita payment is not wave.



GET IN THE GAME!



2026 "Road to the Final Four" Sweepstakes

Support the Ohio Knights of Columbus & Win Big!

The Excitement

Experience the **thrill, drama, and sheer excitement** of March Madness like never before! We're awarding **OVER \$6,000 IN TOTAL PRIZES** throughout the tournament!

How It Works

It's simple to play and even easier to win:

- **The Ticket:** Secure your chance for just **\$20.00**.
- **Your Teams:** Each ticket is assigned **four different NCAA teams** on March 19, 2026.
- **The Scoring:** Your teams earn points based on the total they score in their tournament games.
- **Stay Alive:** Once a team is eliminated, they stop accruing points, but your remaining teams keep you in the running!



Three Weekends of Winning!

Tournament Stage	Dates	Prizes	Winners
First & Second Rounds	March 19 – 22	\$50 Per Winner	24 Winners
Sweet 16 & Elite 8	March 26 – 29	\$100 Per Winner	18 Winners
Final Four & Championship	April 4 & 6	Up to \$575!	Top 10 + Lowest



The "3-Ticket Challenge"

Be a Real MVP!

Buy or sell **three or more tickets** and you'll be automatically entered into an **exclusive bonus drawing** for additional **\$75 cash awards!** It's like hitting a three-pointer at the buzzer!



Act Fast – Limited Tickets!

Tickets are mailed starting **February 1st**. Don't get left on the bench—they will go faster than a fast break!

To get your tickets, contact the legend himself: Gary Eckstein 614-679-4238
gary.eckman@sbcglobal.net

*Proceeds benefit Ohio Knights of Columbus charitable programs.
Official rules available at www.fundcrazr.com.*











State Apparel Update









Worthy Brothers of Ohio!!

After some careful negotiations and reworking of our State Administrative Logo and State Council Logo there were pricing changes, but not as heavy as I first imagined. Apparel ONLINE is now only a few bucks more plus shipping.

Ohio State Admin Logo[View Category Page](#)

 OhSA Port Authority Value Fleece Vest, F219 \$50.78 5 Colors	 OhSA Sport-Tek Tech Fleece 1/4-Zip Pullover, F247 \$70.78 5 Colors	 OhSA Sport-Tek V-Neck Raglan Wind Shirt, JS172 \$50.78 5 Colors	 OhSA Port Authority Silk Touch Polo K500 \$32.28 8 Colors
 OhSA Port Authority® Tall Silk Touch Polo TLK 500 \$34.38	 OhSA Port Authority Long Sleeve Easy Care Shirt S608 \$40.78	 OhSA Port Authority Tall Long Sleeve Easy Care Shirt, TL5608 \$42.78	 OhSA Sport-Tek PosiCharge RacerMesh Polo, ST640 \$32.78

Ohio State Council Logo[View Category Page](#)

 Port Authority Silk Touch Polo K500 \$33.90 8 Colors	 Port Authority® Tall Silk Touch Polo TLK 500 \$38.00 6 Colors	 Sport-Tek PosiCharge RacerMesh Polo, ST640 \$30.70 8 Colors	 Port Authority Long Sleeve Easy Care Shirt S608 \$41.90 8 Colors
 Port Authority Tall Long Sleeve Easy Care Shirt, TL5608 \$42.90	 Sport-Tek Tech Fleece 1/4-Zip Pullover, F247 \$64.95	 Sport-Tek V-Neck Raglan Wind Shirt, JS172 \$44.75	 Port Authority Value Fleece Vest, F219 \$44.35

T-Shirts, Hats, and Pins are all still the same price!!

Please visit the State Apparel Store from now until Feb 21st 2026. The store will then be closed off for a few months and reopen in the Spring May 1st. Golf and baseball season is just around the corner so, get your orders started today!

I also have a great stock in Umbrella's, 40oz Tumblers, Wine Tumblers, and Challenge Coins from past conventions that I would be happy to make bulk deals on!

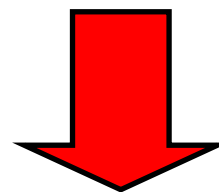
Great Insurance Agent incentive gifts!!

Any questions or concerns feel free to reach out to me at

matt.stapleton76@gmail.com 419-509-5987.

See you at the State Free throw in March!!

Matt Stapleton – State Merch Guy!



<https://kofcoho.mremblem.com/shop/home/>

Around the Buckeye State



Napoleon Council 1344 held a baked steak dinner after 4:30pm Mass on January 10th. It was a fundraiser for St Vincent dePaul. The council sold all 100 meals collecting \$1,707 in donations. Knights helping this cause were Dave Steingass, Bill Conry, Patrick Mauk, Edmundo Somoza, Lindsay Westhoven, Doug Westhoven, Deacon Jon Gottron, and Paul Martin. Lady Knights Auxiliary provided the desserts.



St. Bernadette Council 16376 and **St. Ladislas Council 16373** had a wonderful shared 10th anniversary and Christmas celebration on December 13, 2025, at St. Lads parish. The Mayor presented both Grand Knights with a proclamation and District Deputy John Brown gave both councils their Star council awards.

Around the Buckeye State



For the last 50 years, **Archbishop Moeller Council #3861** has set-up a life-sized nativity scene at the base of the water tower in the Mt. Washington neighborhood of Cincinnati. As GK Tony Russo commented... "Another successful year keeping the Nativity scene at its rightful place....at the center of the community. Making sure folks understand the real reason for the season!"



On January 17th, **Fairborn Council 3724** hosted a wonderful fundraiser for Bridgid's Path, the first newborn recovery center in Ohio.

Knights served up spaghetti and meatballs prepared by our own PGK, Frank Carchedi, accompanied by a salad, garlic bread, and sherbet with pizzelles.

Bridgid's Path Volunteer, Savannah Leitchy (pictured at right) gave a wonderful presentation on the great works they do in support of babies and their mothers.

The well fed patrons were very generous in their donations to this worthy cause. PGK Milliron then presented Savannah a check from **Fairborn Council 3724** to help this most important work.