



# Buckeye Bulletin

Volume 1 - Issue 12

June - 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

Another State Convention has concluded and is officially in the books. From all accounts, it was a resounding success, with attendees thoroughly enjoying the event. It was really great to return to the Hilton Easton after a prolonged absence.

The state team now faces the challenge of preparing for next year's convention, which will be held in the Greater Cincinnati Area at the Northern Kentucky Convention Center the weekend of May 21-23, 2027.

We extend our sincere gratitude to State Treasurer Chris Sarka and his team for their exceptional contributions to a memorable weekend.

From mid-March through August, and particularly in April and May, the state team experiences a particularly demanding workload. The multiple responsibilities and the urgency of the tasks often lead to a neglect of expressing gratitude to those who have dedicated their efforts to our jurisdiction over the past fraternal year.

Thank You

In light of this, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to Tom Buehner for his invaluable contributions to the website and the state program reporting system. While much of Tom's work remains behind the scenes, his efforts have resulted in one, if not the most efficient, program reporting systems in our Order.

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the Fourth Degree color corps and honor guard for their unwavering professionalism and exceptional performance throughout the convention. Every opportunity I had, I personally thanked each Sir Knight when I encountered them, but I felt compelled to acknowledge the entire group in case I had inadvertently overlooked anyone. Additionally, I want to express my heartfelt thanks to all three District Masters; Brandon Robinson, Dan Roggelin, and Dean Moshier, the Master of District 3, for their unwavering dedication and hard work not only during the convention, but also throughout the year.

\*continued on next page



Michael J. Felerski  
State Deputy  
[mfelerski@icloud.com](mailto:mfelerski@icloud.com)

\*continued from previous page

With only one month remaining, it is important that we continue our efforts to secure for Ohio the coveted Circle of Honor award for the 2025-2026 fraternal year. There is ample time to organize new church drives to extend invitations to men to join our Order and to submit your council's Columbian Award application (SP-7) to Supreme. It is important to note that you are not required to delay submitting your Columbian Award application solely because you have not yet completed a scheduled program in June. You can proactively add that program because Supreme has faith in your ability to complete it. Every council should submit a Form SP-7 every year. Star is not the only award you can earn when submitting the form.



As of this writing, twenty-six councils require only one additional new Brother Knight to achieve their goal, while thirty councils require two new Knights. Any June weekend is an opportune time to invite men to join, but Father's Day weekend presents a special opportunity.

The final component of earning the Star Council award is hosting or attending Fraternal Benefit Events (FBE). Given Ohio's strong relationship with our agencies, they will go out of their way to help you with this requirement.

This has been an extraordinary year, and without a doubt, we will wrap it up with a resounding success during this, our final push.

Vivat Jesus!

**Michael J. Felerski - State Deputy**

**VIRTUAL FBE**  
**How Your Field Agent Can Help Your Family**

Please join us on **Monday, June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at 7 PM Eastern Time** where Regional Agency Executive Consultant and General Agent **Sonny Sangemino** will discuss the many ways your Knights of Columbus Field Agent or IAR can assist you and your family.

Sonny has been working for the Order for 28 years and is General Agent to a successful agency in Ontario, Canada and oversees our Canadian Agencies.

Sonny has been training and public speaking for years and is able to communicate complex scenarios in an entertaining and engaging manner.

**This presentation applies to both Canadian and American members.**

Join us for this educational and entertaining topic by registering below by scanning the QR code:



**Monday, June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026 - 7 PM EST**



**SONNY SANGEMINO**  
CHS, CPCA, FIC  
Regional Agency Executive Consultant  
General Agent

**LAST CHANCE**



## Don't Miss This Opportunity

Worthy Ohio Knights:

Attached is a great opportunity for councils who need an FBE to secure Star Council recognition.

Our agents are working hard to present FBEs to their councils but that can be a tall order at the end of the fraternal year.

Please consider joining and publicizing this opportunity scheduled for **Monday, June 8, 2024 at 7 PM Eastern Time.**

Click below to register:





# Knights of Columbus

## Ohio State Council

# 127<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention

*An event filled with Faith and Fraternity!*



## Thank you to all who attended the Ohio State Council - 127th Annual Convention!

### Special thanks to our Convention Team:

**Liturgical:** Fr. John Paul Walker, Chris Crum  
**Friday Night Entertainment:** Jim Cogan, Kevin Miller, Council 11208  
**Euchre Tournament / Sponsorships:** Jason Stass, John Spencer  
**Ladies Luncheon:** Gina Sarka

**Volunteers:** Stew Vetter, Tony Offenberger  
**Marketing / Programs:** Eric Yang, Gary Eckstein  
**Logistics / Hospitality:** Tom Prem, David Bogner  
**Registration:** Jim Maslach  
**Convention Chairman / Msgr. Krispinsky Golf:** Chris Sarka  
**Oversight:** Mike Felerski

# State Chaplain's Monthly Reflection

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

## Video Series Archive:

[April - The Sacrament of Holy Matrimony \(Part 1 of 2\)](#)

[March - Confession: How to do it Well \(Part 2 of 2\)](#)

[February - Why Confession \(Part 1 of 2\)](#)

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

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

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



Fr. John Paul Walker, OP  
State Chaplain

# 127th Ohio State Council Convention



At left: State Deputy Michael Felerski and his wife, Heather, enter the ballroom for the State Deputy's Banquet.

Above: Members of the Fourth Degree served as honor guard at a number of functions for this year's Ohio State Council Convention.

On the following page you'll find this fraternal year's **OF THE YEAR** honorees for each of the four Faith in Action program areas.



2025-26 **Youth of the Year, Gabriel Memering**, with State Deputy Mike Felerski and State Community Director Matt Smith. Gabriel was nominated by **Fr. Alphonse Schumacher Council 1801**.



2025-26 **Religious of the Year, Deacon Mark Danis**, with State Deputy Mike Felerski and State Faith Director Chris Crum. Deacon Danis was nominated by **Fr. Alphonse Schumacher Council 1801**.



2025-26 **Family of the Year, The Dave and Kim Krebs Family**, with State Deputy Mike Felerski and State Family Director Michael Freil. The Krebs Family (Paige, Kim, and Dave) was nominated by **River East Mother Teresa Council 14344**.



2025-26 **Knight of the Year, David Tortorete**, with State Deputy Mike Felerski and State Life Director Mike Incorvati. David was nominated by **Fr. Maruskin Council 10936**.



State Secretary, Jim Maslach, (center) was chosen as this year's State Officer of the Year. He is shown above with State Deputy Mike Felerski and State Community Director Matt Smith.



This year's Kirwin Award for the top Field Agent in the state was presented to Peter Holm, shown above with State Deputy Mike Felerski and State Program Director Tim Mangan.



This year's District Deputy of the Year award was Jeremy Begines, DD #05, shown above with State Deputy Mike Felerski and State Program Director Tim Mangan.



This year's District Deputy Coordinator of the Year was Tom Hahn, from the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.

# Top 10 Councils in Ohio

#1 Archbishop Elder Council 1195

#2 Msgr. Anthony P Boeff Council 5582

#3 Fr. Bill Johnson Council 11665

#4 Father Maruskin Council 10936

#5 Joseph Cardinal Bernardin Council 12359

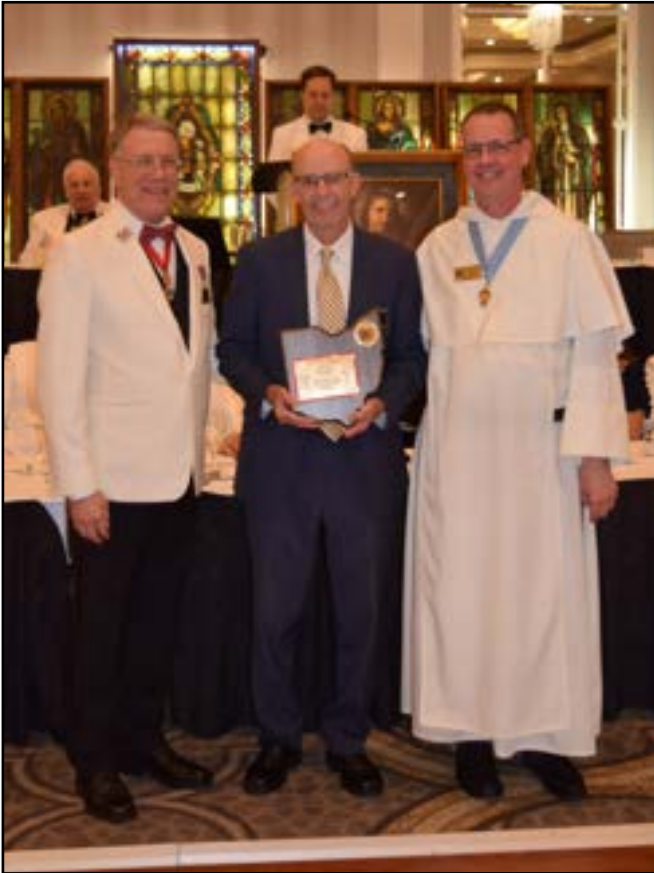
#6 Sandusky Council 546

#7 St Brendan Council 11208

#8 St Dominic-Delhi 15533

#9 Fr William O'Connor Council 3730

#10 St James Council 2299



#1 Archbishop Elder Council 1195



#2 Msgr. Anthony P Boeff Council 5582

# Congratulations!





**#3 Fr. Bill Johnson  
Council 11665**



**#4 Father Maruskin  
Council 10936**



**#5 Joseph Cardinal Bernardin  
Council 12359**



**#6 Sandusky Council 546**



**#7 St Brendan Council 11208**



**#8 St Dominic-Delhi 15533**



**#9 Fr William O'Connor  
Council 3730**



**#10 St James Council 2299**





# 2026 SUPER CASH BONANZA

Ohio

# THE A-TEAM EDITION



*"I love it when a plan comes together"*



CHARITY UNITY FRATERNITY PATRIOTISM

A MISSION ACCOMPLISHED TOGETHER!

OVER **\$1,074,000** IN TICKET SALES FOR 2026!

A three-peat! Following the footsteps of State Secretary, **Jim Maslach**, we once again had an amazing year! Ticket sales now approaching levels not seen since 1983!

This incredible milestone is a testament to the hard work, dedication, and commitment of all our councils and partners across Ohio.

**TOGETHER, WE ARE PROVIDING SUPPORT TO COUNTLESS CHARITIES ACROSS OHIO AND MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF SO MANY. THANK YOU FOR BEING THE A-TEAM FOR CHARITY!**

OUR MISSION:  
**RAISING \$1,000,000+**  
FOR CHARITY



**Knights of Columbus®**  
Ohio State Council

### 2026 SUPER CASH BONANZA WINNERS LIST

Prize #	Description	Ticket Number	Full Name	Address	City	State	Zip	Council #	Diocese
1	(\$40,800) (\$414/Month for 16-Years)	427563	Charlie Broussard	7906 Rodney Circle	Waverly	Ohio	45139	13813	CPN
2	(\$18,750) (\$310/Month for 5-Years)	524140	Janice Holbrink	2098 Dikolen Road	Wesler	Ohio	45865	2156	CPN
3	(\$12,720) (\$212/Month for 5-Years)	563148	Nicole Mroczka	23991 Norzak Dr	North Olmstead	Ohio	44070	16376	CLEV
4	\$4,000	716389	Ted Neck	22 Diamond St	Chilcath	Ohio	45216	14695	CPN
5	\$3,600	766037	Kyle Rote	30403 Hillard Blvd	Westlake	Ohio	44145	16373	CLEV
6	\$1,500	235031	Amy Holmes	1547 Fisher Dr	Woooster	Ohio	44691	4847	CLEV
7	\$1,500	577442	Wade Boomer	6619 W US Highway 224	Atica	Ohio	44607	3062	TOLE
8	\$1,500	097795	Tom Soller	419 Milford Avenue	Marysville	Ohio	43940	5534	COLB
9	\$1,500	180007	Jack Semer	15404 Dald Eagle Ln	Woodbridge	Virginia	22181	14255	CLEV
10	\$1,250	579349	Carolyn Kesler	100 W 3rd	Van Wert	Ohio	45891	6034	TOLE
11	\$1,250	181441	Jack Brooks	2836 29th St SE	Canton	Ohio	44707	4733	YOUN
12	\$1,250	291003	Ben Carrier	858 Livemore Ln	Clyde	Ohio	44625	774	CLEV
13	\$1,250	512785	Bill Hagerty	103 Shoemaker Ln	Union	Ohio	45372	12912	CPN
14	\$1,000	227180	Peter Faradoni	54 South Lincoln	West Salem	Ohio	44267	789	CLEV
15	\$1,000	503970	Nick Stroud	5354 Grand Legacy Dr	Mansville	Ohio	45839	5126	CPN
16	\$1,000	112320	Terry Kunkel	P.O. Box 10, 20520 Zion Rd	Gambier	Ohio	43022	847	COLB
17	\$1,000	382744	Kevin Kelley	31825 Bayview Vr Apt 99	Avon Lake	Ohio	44012	16373	CLEV
18	\$750	222583	Requested to be Anonymous		Orinthead	Ohio	44138	4130	CLEV
19	\$750	028994	Gene Kanzyg	5520 Colling Dr	Dublin	Ohio	43016	18093	COLB
20	\$750	838550	Hold Patnam	14552 Township Hwy 5	Cary	Ohio	43316	1925	TOLE
21	\$750	036212	John Will	7863 Topiary Ct S	Dublin	Ohio	43017	18993	COLB
22	\$500	584732	John Koveman	13258 State Route 29	Arms	Ohio	45302	5239	CPN
23	\$500	486740	John Thomson	803 Newahner Dr	Villa Hills	Kentucky	41117	1162	CPN
24	\$500	679770	Karen Sudath	6032 Preble County Line Rd	Brookville	Ohio	45305	3873	CPN
25	\$500	274935	James Carone	11 Wildern Dr	Youngstown	Ohio	44505	15959	YOUN
26	\$500	358011	Recep Petrozzi	3973 Abby Knoll Dr	Lewis Center	Ohio	43025	4361	STEU

### TOP COUNCILS LEADERBOARD

Rank	Number	Council Name	Location	Dioc	2026 Tickets Sold
1	16373	St. Ladislav	Westlake	CLEV	6,330
2	10936	Father Maruskin	Stow	CLEV	4,325
3	16376	St. Bernadette	Westlake	CLEV	4,158
4	14255	St Sebastian	Akron	CLEV	2,870
5	3324	Fort Recovery	Fort Recovery	CINN	2,856
<b>GREAT JOB! KEEP UP THE MOMENTUM!</b>					
7	15573	Holy Family	Poland	YOUN	2,635
8	1757	Ottawa	Ottawa	TOLE	2,592
17	10863	Saint Brigid of Kildare	Dublin	COLB	1,864
33	4361	Msr Joseph F Dooley	Mingo Jct	STEU	1,212



### THANK YOU, BROTHER KNIGHTS!

Your commitment to charity, unity, and fraternity continues to drive our success. Let's keep the **A-TEAM** spirit alive and make 2027 our best year yet!

★★ **ONE TEAM. ONE MISSION. ONE MILLION+ REASONS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.** ★★

# 2026 Super Cash Bonanza

## Winners List

2026 SUPER CASH BONANZA WINNERS LIST				
Prize #	Description	Ticket Number	Full Name	Council #
1	\$49,680 (\$414/Month for 10-Years)	427563	Charlie Broussard	13813
2	\$18,780 (\$313/Month for 5-Years)	524143	James Heitbrink	2158
3	\$12,720 (\$212/Month for 5-Years)	383148	Nicole Mroczka	16378
4	\$4,000	718389	Ted Mack	14665
5	\$3,000	786637	Kyle Rote	16373
6	\$1,500	235031	Amy Holmes	4847
7	\$1,500	577442	Wade Beamer	3062
8	\$1,500	097795	Tom Soller	5534
9	\$1,500	198887	Jack Samar	14255
10	\$1,250	579349	Carolyn Kesler	6034
11	\$1,250	181441	Jack Brooks	4733
12	\$1,250	291883	Ben Currier	774
13	\$1,250	512765	Bill Hagerly	12912
14	\$1,000	227180	Peter Foradori	789
15	\$1,000	503976	Nick Stroud	5128
16	\$1,000	112320	Terry Kunkel	847
17	\$1,000	302744	Kevin Kelley	16373
18	\$750	222583	*Requested to be Anonymous	4130
19	\$750	029994	Gene Kanzigg	10863
20	\$750	638550	Heidi Putnam	1925
21	\$750	036212	John Willi	10863
22	\$500	504732	John Koverman	5239
23	\$500	480740	John Thomson	1162
24	\$500	679770	Karen Sudduth	3873
25	\$500	274935	James Carsone	15959
26	\$500	359011	Rocco Petrozzi	4361



# OHIO KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS & SPECIAL OLYMPICS OF OHIO



## A PARTNERSHIP THAT CHANGES LIVES

Through a shared commitment to faith, service, and inclusion, Knights of Columbus Councils across Ohio proudly partner with Special Olympics Ohio to empower athletes and strengthen communities.

Together, we champion dignity, celebrate abilities, and build a more inclusive Ohio for everyone.

“As a strategic partnership, we are striving to be servants of our Lord, we have been chosen to serve His people. Brothers, you have once again answered that call!”



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY  
MAY 29-31, 2026



SERVING OUR LORD  
Through Faith



SERVING HIS PEOPLE  
Through Action



BUILDING AN INCLUSIVE OHIO  
Through Unity



EMPOWERING ATHLETES  
Everyday



### SUMMER GAMES SPORTS



- Athletics
- Bocce
- Bowling
- Powerlifting
- Tennis
- Volleyball

### UNITED BY PURPOSE. DRIVEN BY FAITH.

Thank you, Brother Knights!  
Your support, service, and generosity make a lasting impact on the lives of athletes and families across Ohio.

Together, we are Champions for Inclusion.



# Ohio Growth Report



**Mark Kosobud**  
**State Growth Chairman**  
[mkosobud@yahoo.com](mailto:mkosobud@yahoo.com)

As we storm into the last month of a very active Fraternal Year, it's time to talk about a subject that pervades the final weeks of Growth. I'm talking of course about the habit of holding back potential candidates until the start of the next Fraternal Year to make a big splash in the first few weeks of the new year. While there are many pros and cons and lots of discussions about them, councils have been doing it since the dawn of the golden age of television. I, too, as a council leader, must admit to making this choice a few times.

However, I'm here to ask all council leaders to set that aside this year and do their best to get every possible candidate into your councils before June 30, 2026. Why? Because the Supreme Council up in New Haven has put out a 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Incentive to the state jurisdictions that basically says if you reach a minimum assigned goal for membership by the end of this year, we'll reduce your 26/27 membership goals by 2% on the very first day of the new year!

For Ohio, this works out as:

Circle of Honor Goal = 2115

Pinnacle Goal = 2538

Reduced COH Goal = 2073

Reduced Pinnacle Goal = 2487

Essentially, if we succeed in attaining our Felerski Goal of 2100 new members this Fraternal Year, we'll earn this Incentive and earn the reduction to our goal numbers for next year! And, fortunately, we are within reach of attaining the Felerski Goal if everyone pitches in! How so?

The outstanding, runaway Growth success of the of the Fraternal Year has been 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 and your council's members has been shown to produce results every time. Put it to work for your council!

Don't forget our traditional tools – eMembership and the online join, eForm100's, personal invitations to friends and family. Give them a try!

Use the many opportunities that you are involved with each day – Fraternal Benefit Events, Fishers of Men initiatives, your *COR* events, Faith in Action programs – use these opportunities to Invite!

And stay strong on your council's journey to a STAR reward by passing around Ken Girt's monthly Star Council Report. Ohio's goal for STAR councils is 60 for this Fraternal Year, and 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, it's now our turn to extend that invitation!

Our work isn't over, and we still have a job ahead of us to try and reach 2100 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 F Kosobud - Ohio State Growth Director**





# One Month to Achieve Star Council

My Brother Knights,

The June Star Council Report will be issued soon. Please review your council's status and address missing reports, safe-environment, growth recruitment and fraternal benefit quotas. Get your SP7 Columbian

Award Application submitted. Please contact your Insurance Representative to get necessary FBE scheduled, and contact supreme OYP if you need assistance in getting required certification for your officers and directors. Don't miss out on Star Council! We have ONE month left in the fraternal year to achieve Star Council Awards.



**Ken Girt, PSD**  
Star Council Director  
[girtken@sssnet.com](mailto:girtken@sssnet.com)

Congratulations to the 14 Grand Knights who qualified for the First Annual "OSCAR" Award at the convention:

- Sandusky Council 546 - Larry Kaman- Grand Knight
- Massillon Council 554 - Bryan Stewart, Grand Knight
- Newark Council 721 - Edward Gebhart, Grand Knight
- Archbishop Elder Council 1195 - William Shefcik, Grand Knight
- Fort Recovery Council 3324 - Calvin May, Grand Knight
- Fairborn Council 3724 - Thomas Pitstick, Grand Knight
- Fr William O Connor Council 3730 - Robert Howard, Grand Knight
- Lafayette Council 3970 - Michael Grzincic, Grand Knight
- Msgr Anthony P Boeff Council 5582 - Aaron Shiplett, Grand Knight
- A J Schulte Council 6144 - Matthew Prenatt, Grand Knight
- Fr Bill Johnson Council 11665 - David Shallenberger, Grand Knight
- Joseph Cardinal Bernardin Council 12359 - Frank Simms, Grand Knight
- River East - Mother Teresa Council 14344 - Eric Loprete, Grand Knight
- St Dominic-Delhi Council 15533 - Paul Brackmann, Grand Knight.



These Grand Knights led their councils in achieving all the requirements for Star Council Award by May 1.

Thank you for all that you do for the Order!

Vivat Jesus!

**Ken Girt, PSD - State Star Council Award Director**





# Support for Cor Continues to Grow!

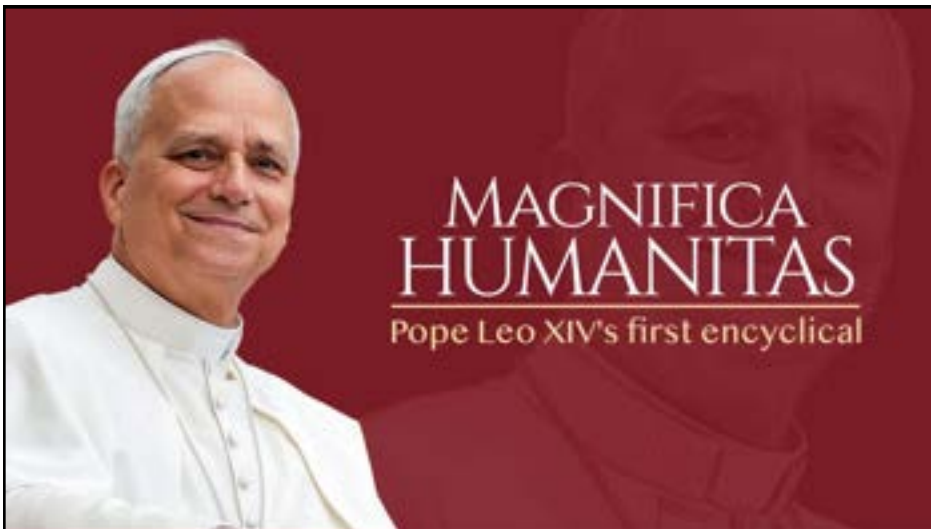


**Arron Mier**  
Evangelization & Faith  
Formation Director  
[kofcohieff@gmail.com](mailto:kofcohieff@gmail.com)

Brother Knights,

As we close out this fraternal year, I'd like to highlight the progress we have made in Ohio, as well as provide some thoughts on two recent events that impacted us directly as Knights.

First, I'm very excited to announce that we currently have 91 Council EFF Directors assigned in the state of Ohio. We are only nine short of the goal I set out at the beginning of the year. Congratulations to all the councils that have taken this step. In conjunction with this, we have over 170 councils that indicated that they are participating in some form of Cor in their council/parish. I want to reiterate that this is not merely a goal to meet, but an opportunity to engage the men around us in a very focused and Christ-centered manner. This type of evangelization can have tremendous impact on the lives of those men. These good works will inevitably encourage better men, better husbands, and better fathers.



Second, recently, Knights of Columbus released "Into the Breach-The Dignity of Work". On May 15<sup>th</sup>, Pope Leo XIV released his first encyclical letter titled "**Magnifica Humanitas**" which translates to "The Grandeur of Humanity". I would offer that at this time there are no two more important things that we, as men, can consume.

This new ITB series teaches about the ways in which work is a gift from God and how to engage it rightly. It's important to find God in all the work we do as men. It is just as important to realize that we are not our work, but our work is a reflection of ourselves.

Never forget, prayer life and family life should take precedence over work life, but all are important to a fulfilling life.

*Magnifica Humanitas* addresses the advent of Artificial Intelligence and the Digital Revolution. Pope Leo XIV asks us to be the people that rebuild the walls of Jerusalem and not those that built the Tower of Babel. He reminds us that human dignity is a gift from God and can never be replaced by an algorithm. Although AI should be used as a tool for good, there are several inherent risks that come along with its use. Some of those key dangers are concentration of power, dehumanization, and environmental.

One of the things that Pope Leo XIV explicitly calls out is the dignity of work. "Work is not merely income. It is a path of self-expression, relationship, and participation in God's creation. Automation driven purely by profit can de-skill workers, subject them to algorithmic surveillance, and generate mass unemployment — a social calamity the State has a duty to prevent. Economic models must be measured against human dignity, not only financial efficiency." (A summary from the Catholic Diocese of Sunyani)

Although there is so much more I could discuss, I want to stop here and highlight the way these two things intersect. It is not a coincidence that both the Pope and the Knights of Columbus are addressing the issue of the Dignity of Work at the same time. Since the global shutdown due to COVID-19, it has been a slow road back to normalcy. Companies are still letting employees work from home, schools now rely heavily on technology, and I've even been to more than one church that no longer offers the Blood of Christ at Communion.

**\*continued from previous page**

Human beings are meant to be in communion with others by nature. We are taught as Catholics that faith cannot happen alone. I would also say that work, not just labor, but good work must happen again. If we are to become Christ-like, we must adhere to the Church's teaching on Social Doctrine. (Feel free to email me if you know the Five Principles of Social Doctrine without looking them up! The honor system is in effect.) We must use AI as a tool for the betterment of all mankind while considering the environmental impact that rare earth mining and data center development have on our planet.

All of this to say that God has a plan for each of us. We are called to be productive parts of His plan by knowing that we all have self-worth, dignity, and are loved by Christ. Please utilize these two items, "Into the Breach-The Dignity of Work" and "**Magnifica Humanitas**" as study materials in your councils next (or first) Cor meeting.

With deep love and respect,

**Arron Mier - Director of Evangelization & Faith Formation**



## **Congratulations to All of Our Diocesan and State Winners!**

Brothers,

**Life**

It was so nice to see many of you last week at the state convention in Columbus! It's always nice to be able to honor so many councils for all the hard work that all of you are doing throughout the state! Here are the Life Programs and Knights of the Year that were selected as diocesan winners and from them, the state winner.

- Fr. Frank Patala Council #1716 (Steu) received the state award for Best Life Program for their participation in the annual Polar Bear Plunge in Albany, Ohio. This event raises funds and awareness for students with developmental disabilities at Beacon School. This stood out for originality, but they were also able to include area college students from Ohio University. Perhaps some of these students could become advocates of those with developmental challenges.
- Other diocesan winners were Nursing Home Bingo #11550 (Cin), Bus to Ohio March for Life #4847 (Cle), Super Bowl Subs for Heartbeats #11665 (Col), Special Olympics Chili Dinner #626 (Tol), and Boardman Challenger Baseball League #3930 (Youn).
- Dave Tortorete from #10936 (Cle) won the State Knight of the Year! Dave's leadership in roles with the council and the parish, along with some programs that aided the community, were key to why he edged out several others with serious consideration.
- Other diocesan winners were Frank Carchedi #3724 (Cin), Dave Breitmayer #11665 (Col), Steve Neuser #1716 (Steu), Ed Fiscus #11370 (Tol), and Matthew Hynes #3930 (Youn).



**Mike Incorvati**  
**Life Director**  
[mlbincorvati@gmail.com](mailto:mlbincorvati@gmail.com)



Congratulations to all the winners, and thank you to all the Brother Knights who took the time and effort to give thorough reports.

Vivat Jesus!

**Mike Incorvati - Life Director**

# Annual Awards Recognize the Hard Work Put in by Councils and Knights



**Tim Mangan**  
State General  
Program Director  
[tjmangan@icloud.com](mailto:tjmangan@icloud.com)

Worthy Brother Knights of the Great State of Ohio,

What a wonderful State Convention..... THANK YOU Columbus Diocese for planning and executing a great convention for your Brother Knights! It was a great place to cap off the year for all the councils with a lot of well-deserved recognition awards!

I am pleased to report there were 165 “We Are Called” General Program Awards presented at this year’s State Convention to honor and thank the councils, Brother Knights, their families and others: The Elite Award (State Top Councils regardless of Division) – 10 Ohio Council of Distinction (Top Council in each Division) – 5 The Glorious Award - 31 The Excellence Award - 33

The Superior Award-13 Activity of the Year by Diocese- 24 State Activity of the Year- 4 Honorees of the Year by Diocese- 24 State Honorees of the Year- 4 State Officer of the Year- 1 Kirwan Award -1 District Deputy 1<sup>st</sup> Half Winners- 6 District Deputy 1<sup>st</sup> Half Overall Winner- 1 District Deputy 2<sup>nd</sup> Half Winners- 6 District Deputy 2<sup>nd</sup> Half Overall Winner- 1 State District Deputy of the Year- 1

I would like to congratulate once again **ALL** the individuals and councils that were recognized at the Ohio State Convention over the weekend! I would like to share with you a summary of both the State individual winners and Best Overall Council Activities. I would also like to share with you a recap of the Top Ten Councils throughout the State, the OSCAR Award winners, District Deputy winners, Division winners, and Best Activities by Diocese. Great Job to everyone and keep up the good work! I look forward to seeing who will step up and get their recognition at next year’s Ohio State Convention!

[2026 State Program Awards Summary .pdf](#)

Fraternally,  
**Tim Mangan - State General Program Director**

## The Online Store is OPEN!

Please visit at your convenience. More Apparel will be on sale on tour in July including plus sizes, Ohio State Council apparel and a few Wind Breakers, ¼ Zip Jackets and Vests. Be sure to come to your Diocese Tour and bring Cash or credit cards for purchases. Contact me in the next 2 weeks to be sure I have your size on hand and I will do my best to have it in your diocese. 419-509-5987 or [matt.stapleton76@gmail.com](mailto:matt.stapleton76@gmail.com). All product is on a 1<sup>st</sup> come 1<sup>st</sup> serve unless prior contact to me has been made. [See you on Tour in July!!!](#)





# Now is the Time for More Action

The 127<sup>th</sup> Annual Knights of Columbus Convention is behind us, and with it the comfort of routine. As we stand at a crossroads, it is clear that stagnation is not an option. Our communities are calling out for action, for compassion, and for courageous leadership. The issues we face today are urgent and multidimensional: supporting law enforcement, addressing mental health, and protecting vulnerable children. Now is the moment to rise above complacency and make a lasting impact. The time is now.

Law enforcement officers are the backbone of our public safety, working tirelessly to maintain peace and order. Yet, they are facing unprecedented challenges—rising crime rates, community distrust, and the emotional burdens of their profession. As community members, we have a responsibility, not only to appreciate their efforts, but also to support them in tangible ways. This could mean organizing community outreach, advocating for better equipment and training, or simply offering a listening ear. By standing with the men and women in law enforcement, we reinforce the values of justice and security in our neighborhoods.

Mental illness affects millions, yet stigma and misunderstanding often prevent individuals from seeking help. The suffering is real, and the consequences ripple through families and communities. We must be advocates for mental health, promoting access to counseling, supporting local initiatives, and encouraging open discussions. Whether it is volunteering at a mental health clinic, lobbying for improved services, or educating ourselves and others, every action counts. Now is the time to extend compassion—not just in words, but in deeds—to those battling mental illness.

Children depend on adults for protection, guidance, and care. Tragically, far too many are subjected to sexual, mental, or physical abuse. The scars left by such trauma can last a lifetime. Our communities must be vigilant, proactive, and unwavering in our commitment to safeguarding young people. This means supporting child advocacy centers, reporting suspected abuse, mentoring at-risk youth, and promoting educational programs that teach children about their rights and safety. We cannot turn a blind eye; we must be their voice, their shield, and their hope. Working in the correctional field for 18 years, I have dealt with both sides of this community issue. I can't stress enough to each of you the importance of the Safe Environment Training. Ensure your council is compliant with this training immediately!!

The needs in our communities are clear. The challenges are daunting, but the opportunity for positive change is greater. As difference makers, we must embrace the responsibility to act—whatever our role or capacity. Now is not the time for stagnation or hesitation; now is the time to bring hope, healing, and help to those who need it most. Our convention is behind us, but the work ahead is urgent. Let us answer the call to action together and build stronger, safer, and more compassionate communities for all.

**Matt Smith - State Community Director**



**Matt Smith**  
Community Director  
[matt.smith1974kofc@gmail.com](mailto:matt.smith1974kofc@gmail.com)



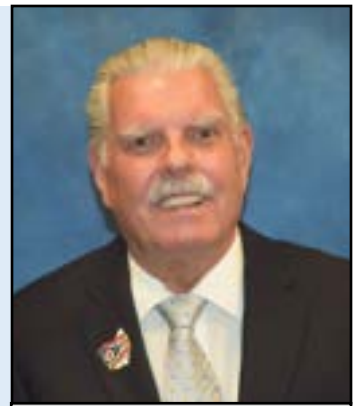


# Help Strengthen the Faith of Families Through Programs

Worthy Brother Knights of the Great State of Ohio.

**Family** surely put in  
prepare your programs for this next fraternal year.

What a great State Convention we had last weekend. It is always great to see all of the good works that councils do throughout the state with the various programs. The winners of the Best Program Activities some hard work to be awarded those honors. Now is the time to plan &



**Michael Freil**  
Family Director  
[mcfreil2019@gmail.com](mailto:mcfreil2019@gmail.com)

Blessed Michael McGivney, Apostle of Christian Family Life, founded the Knights of Columbus to strengthen Catholic Men and their families. We, as Knights, carry on his mission to protect and embolden families as they live out their vocations. As we are about to start the next fraternal year, take advantage of the 10 Family Programs that your Council can participate in, and strengthen the families within your Councils.

The 10 Programs are:

Quinceanera Support (a celebration common in Hispanic Cultures that marks passage of a 15yr old girl from childhood to adulthood)

Food for Families      Good Friday Promotion  
Family Week            Family Prayer Night

Family of the Month/Year      Family Fully Alive  
Keep Christ in Christmas

Remembering Our Faithful Departed  
Consecration to the Holy Family

For more detailed information of these 10 Programs, go to [kofc.org](http://kofc.org), and under Programs you will see all the Faith in Action Programs. Click on Family and You will see detailed information.

Vivat Jesus !!

**Michael Freil - State Family Director**

## Real Families



## Pray Together

# 2100 New Knights

## For Now and for Our Future

# 60 Star Councils



# Mission-Ready: When Formation Becomes Visible

## Faith

The most dangerous moment in formation is not always the beginning. At the beginning, the need is clear, the call feels urgent, and men often recognize that something in their lives must change. The greater danger often comes later, after the meetings, talks, prayers, small groups, good intentions, and strong moments. A man can learn the language of formation before that formation has fully taken root. He can remember a powerful season of grace and still return, quietly and almost without noticing, to old rhythms.

That is the danger: not open rejection, but drift. Many men do not abandon formation all at once. They simply return to normal before grace has become permanent. The old schedule returns. Hidden compromises remain hidden. Excuses become familiar again. Brotherhood becomes less intentional. Prayer becomes easier to postpone. The heart that was stirred begins to settle back into comfort.

Formation is not a trophy, a certificate, or a spiritual scrapbook. It is preparation for responsibility. God does not form men so they can admire their own growth. He forms them so they can become dependable in the places where love, truth, sacrifice, patience, and courage are required.

A man is not truly formed until what God has done in him begins to bless someone beyond him. The prayer that steadied him must become peace in his home. The mercy he received must become mercy toward others. The discipline he practiced must become reliability under pressure. The brotherhood that helped him stand must become concern for the man who has gone missing. The healing God began in him must become compassion for those still wounded. The sacramental life that restored him must shape the way he lives, leads, decides, forgives, works, rests, and serves.

The goal is a man who is different: steadier, more truthful, more sacramental, and more available to God. Formation becomes real when it becomes visible.

Formation eventually faces a foundation check. Stress, temptation, grief, marital strain, financial pressure, success, failure, and ordinary fatigue all reveal what a man is really built upon. A Catholic man cannot build his life on mood, appetite, ambition, reputation, control, comfort, or good intentions. Those may carry him for a while, but they cannot carry his soul.

Christ can.

If Christ is not central, everything else bends out of shape. Discipline becomes self-improvement. Service becomes reputation. Brotherhood becomes a club. Leadership becomes control. Even virtue can become pride. The first question, then, is not “Did I participate?” The better question is, “Has Christ gained real authority in my life?”

That authority is not theoretical. It touches the calendar, the phone, the use of money, the handling of anger, the words spoken at home, the hidden life, the keeping of Sunday, and the willingness to repent. Many men do not reject Christ outright. They simply relegate Him. He gets Sunday, a few prayers, and perhaps a crisis, while daily life is still ruled by urgency, comfort, distraction, fear, appetite, or control.

That is not always dramatic rebellion. Often it is simply drift, and drift builds nothing.

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**Chris Crum**  
**Faith Director**

[chris-crum99@yahoo.com](mailto:chris-crum99@yahoo.com)



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Christ does not examine the house of a man's life in order to shame him. He examines it to save it. The purpose of formation is not to create men who sound religious, but men whose lives are increasingly ordered around Jesus Christ.

A good formation path touches many rooms of a man's life. It restores identity by reminding him that he is not his work, income, failure, addiction, usefulness, reputation, wounds, or mask. He is first a son before God. It challenges isolation, because private faith without real brotherhood leaves a man exposed. It forms character, because virtue is not vague niceness but repeated obedience until the soul gains strength.

It also returns men to prayer and the sacraments, because no man can muscle his way into holiness. He needs grace, Scripture, Mass, Confession, silence, and daily prayer. It places men under Mary's care, not as sentiment, but as a motherly path back to Christ. It gives men the saints as proof that holiness can take flesh in every age, vocation, temperament, and history. It names spiritual warfare, opens wounds to mercy, redefines leadership as sacrificial responsibility, and turns faith outward into concrete love.

But all of this must come back to Christ. Without Him, the whole thing collapses into religious self-improvement. With Him, formation begins to bear fruit.

So the question is simple: what has actually changed? Is prayer more stable? Is Confession less avoided? Is Mass less negotiable? Is anger less enthroned? Is the home more peaceful? Has someone wounded, lonely, poor, forgotten, or overwhelmed received mercy, because a man became more available?

These questions are not accusations. They are instruments. A man who refuses examination refuses growth. A man who welcomes examination becomes more usable to God: usable in the home, usable in the parish, usable when a child needs a model, when a wife needs steadiness, when a brother needs pursuit, and when the Church needs shoulders.



A man becomes holy where his preferences are crossed. When he is tired and chooses presence, corrected and chooses humility, tempted and chooses flight, wounded and chooses forgiveness, or tempted to coast and chooses fidelity, formation leaves the page and enters the bloodstream.

Some men have grown. Their wives may know it. Their children may feel it. Their brothers may have seen it. They pray where they used to drift, confess where they used to hide, serve where they used to avoid, tell the truth sooner, ask for help faster, and return to Christ more quickly after they fall. Give thanks for that. Be specific. Name

what God has rebuilt.

Other men may realize they stayed near the fire without letting it burn. They attended, agreed, admired, and kept certain rooms locked. They wanted brotherhood without vulnerability, healing without exposure, leadership without sacrifice, mercy without inconvenience, Christ without His crown. That should not lead to despair. It should lead to truth. A man cannot be formed by what he refuses to face.

Grace is not an emotional souvenir. It is a summons. Christ does not form men for display. He forms men for mission.

If this work of grace has borne fruit, families should not only hear about it, they should experience it. The point is not applause, and it is certainly not a moment for self-congratulation. The point is witness. Let the family see that the man is not finished, that he is recommitting, and that he is being sent home to love better.

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Families do not need vague excitement. They need visible obedience. The men's group may not be the best judge of growth. The family often knows more. The wife knows patience. Children know presence. The home knows peace. The calendar knows order. The parish knows availability. The hidden life knows surrender.

Every man, married or single, young or old, is called to spiritual fruitfulness. A small group of men becoming holy is better than a crowded room that never changes, but that cannot excuse weak outreach. The Church does not need programs that protect their own appearance. She needs formation that produces saints.

What comes next is not a sequel. It is the outward expression of what has already begun. Interior formation must now become visible love in mission.

Mission has names: wife, children, priest, brother, neighbor, coworker, the poor, the lonely, the wounded, the young man without direction, the parish that needs shoulders, and the culture that needs witness. Mission stops being romantic when it has a face, a schedule, and a cost. Good. That is when it becomes real.

This mission will ask men to lead their families to holiness, not by domination or speeches, but by humble, steady, sacrificial leadership. Pray with your wife. Bless your children. Bring your family to Mass. Apologize when you fail. Tell the truth. Protect the home from what deforms it. Make Sunday different. Let the faith be visible. Teach your children that faith is not only something you believe; it is something you live.

It will also ask men to serve the parish not as critics from the sidelines, but as shoulders under the load. It will ask men to witness in society not with rage, cowardice, or contempt, but with courage and charity. Truth without hatred. Mercy without compromise. Conviction without performance.

The world does not need louder Catholic men as much as it needs holier ones.

Do not seek to be impressed by holiness; seek conversion. Do not be sentimental toward God; be grateful to Him. Do not offer God vague intentions; offer Him a Rule of Life: prayer, sacrament, service, and accountability. Do not fight the good fight alone; stand with a brother in the battle for holiness. Do not keep your sins hidden; keep returning to Confession. Do not stand as a spectator; live as a man entrusted with mission.

The road ahead will ask more, because love always does, but grace is not exhausted. The Eucharist remains. Confession remains. The Church remains. Mary remains a mother. The saints remain companions. Brothers remain beside one another. Christ remains Lord.

So, let's give thanks. Tell the truth. Receive mercy. Write the rule. Bless the family. Call the brother. Serve unseen. Begin at home.

Formation has not ended. It has reached the point where it must become visible.

Go quietly. Go firmly. Go faithfully.

Vivat Jesus!

**Chris Crum - State Faith Director**

**Next: Living as Catholic Husbands, Fathers, and Men — Loving as Christ Loves**





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

# Annual Coverage Reviews Help Meet Family Needs

Brothers,

Father's Day is June 21. When you think of the qualities of a good father, what comes to mind?

You might picture someone who leads by example, works hard, makes sacrifices, and loves unconditionally. I think one of the most important ways a father shows his love is when he protects his family in this world that can be so uncertain.

For example, we can't always control what influences the world might have on our family's lives. That's why a father knows it's crucial to guard his family spiritually, leading by example in faith.

Similarly, we can't always predict how life circumstances might impact our ability to provide for our families financially. Will our employment remain secure? Will we experience a long-term disability? And, as much as we don't like to think about it, will the Lord call us home at a time we don't expect?

There are many unknowns, but there are things you can do to protect your family and build security. For example, you can guard your loved ones through life insurance, long-term care insurance and disability income insurance.

Before I close, I'd like to share a story about our Founder, Blessed Michael McGivney. When he was 20 years old and in seminary, his father, Patrick, passed away. This left young Michael uncertain whether he would need to leave seminary and work in a factory to support his siblings and widowed mother. Thankfully, his bishop intervened and provided financial support to allow him to continue his studies for the priesthood.

As a result of this experience, Father McGivney knew firsthand how the death of a loved one could bring about uncertainty for the family.

In founding the Knights of Columbus, he started an Order that allows Catholic men like you to be the protectors their families need — even during life's hardest moments.

I invite you to meet with me to review your current coverage or to partner in finding you the coverage to match your family's needs. I would also be glad to share some of the other services offered by our affiliates, including Knights of Columbus Asset Advisors and Knights of Columbus Charitable Fund.

Thank you!

**Jason Staas - State Insurance Liaison**



**Jason Staas**  
**Insurance Liaison**  
[Jason.Staas@kofc.org](mailto:Jason.Staas@kofc.org)

HAPPY  
*Father's Day*

# Around the Buckeye State



I have been a Knight for almost 20 years and have been an officer for at least 15 of those years. I am slightly embarrassed to admit that in all those years I had never attended a State Convention, until this year. I was a little overwhelmed at the amount of people attending and it was a learning process as to what exactly takes place at this level. One thing that really didn't surprise me though was the amount of love, respect and sense of brotherhood that was shared among all my brother knights. I've seen it every time knights are gathered, whether it's 2 or 20 or 200 knights.

I must also admit that I really went to the State convention with an ulterior motive. A little over a year ago I was named President of the State of Ohio chapter of the Knights on Bikes. I moved back to Ohio 3 years ago and was in search of Knights on Bikes in Ohio but the only person I could find did not ride anymore due to health reasons. Our Eastern Time Zone vice president named me Ohio President and I made it my mission to recruit more members. Since June of last year, I have gone from a council of 1 to a council of 7. A good beginning but there's a long way to go. I was joined at the convention by one of my fellow KonB'ers and I think our recruitment efforts at the convention went quite well. I look forward to signing up some new members.

If you are unfamiliar with the Knights on Bikes, we are NOT a gang, we are NOT a club, we are simply Knights of Columbus who ride motorcycles. We are worldwide and our mission is to be of service to our Bishops, priests and parishes. For more information and to fill out an application check out our website <https://www.knightsonbikes-international.org/> Or contact me directly at [skydrol64@gmail.com](mailto:skydrol64@gmail.com) I look forward to hearing from my brother knights!

**John Giglio Council 3541, Ashland**



# Around the Buckeye State



The Knights of Columbus **Council 1246** is inviting all Catholics to enthrone the image of the Sacred Heart in their homes. They are offering for purchase a framed image of the Sacred Heart, a home enthronement booklet and a certificate for \$20. On June 11, the US Bishops will be consecrating our nation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and this is a wonderful time to consecrate your family to the Sacred Heart as well!

**Knights of Columbus**  
**¡Viva Cristo Rey!**  
Mexican Martyrs Feast Day Celebration  
Worship, Songs & Celebration Potluck Meal  
Thursday May 21, 2026 at 6:00 pm  
St. Mary of the Assumption Church  
601 Jennings Rd Van Wert OH 45891



The Knights of Columbus held a celebration for the Knights of Columbus Mexican Martyrs on Thursday May 21, 2026 at 6 pm at St. Mary's Catholic Church 601 Jennings Rd Van Wert.

The event celebrated the members of the Knights of Columbus who were martyred during the Cristeros War in Mexico in the late 1920's. When the government placed severe restrictions and penalties on religious worship, the people rose up against the government and fought for their religious freedom. The slogan for the fighters was Viva Cristo Rey – long live Christ the King.

On May 21, 2000, Pope John Paul II canonized 25 martyrs who died in that war; many of whom were members of the Knights of Columbus.

The celebration included a Holy Hour lead by Rev. Steve Blum which featured parts in Spanish, English and Latin. Following the Holy Hour, there was a pot luck meal in the St. Mary's gym.

# Around the Buckeye State



The Cincinnati Chapter hosted our biennial ‘**Salute to Religious Vocations**’ Dinner in April. The keynote speaker was Archbishop Robert G. Casey.”  
**Clergy of the Year** was awarded to **Deacon Henry Jacquez** of Queen of Apostles Parish family and a member of **Queen of Apostles Council #14665**. The award is sponsored by **Archbishop Nicholas T. Elko Assembly #2332**; joining State Deputy Mike Felerski for the presentation were the following Assembly members: FN John Beckstedt, John Dietrich, Russ Wernke, PFN Andy Nuckols, Deacon Jacquez, Randy Fischesser, Frank Kammer, and PFN Steve Koehne.”



State Deputy Mike Felerski presents Archbishop Casey with a framed plate of Our Lady of Guadalupe during the evening.



Religious of the Year was awarded to Mother Marie-Cecile of the Carmelite Daughters of Elias. Presenting the award – sponsored by **Monsignor Gerdes Council #3123** – was GK Bill Shula pictured with Mother Marie-Cecile and Archbishop Casey.

# Around the Buckeye State



Three new members of Council 10183 Columbiana  
Left to right: Thomas Butryn, Christopher Hammond,  
Alexander Gosch



At left members of **Columbiana Council 10183** provided Sunday Brunch following the 11 o'clock Mass. Brunch included pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, coffee and juice. The council served over 100 parishioners with free will donations given to the SOS program.

Below **Columbiana Council 10183** also held a Mother's Day Dinner. Council members served and bussed tables and did all clean-up. There were 150 ladies and children present.



# Around the Buckeye State



Fairborn Council 3724 held the 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Blue Coat Awards Banquet on April 30<sup>th</sup>. The Monsignor Buckley Assembly 4<sup>th</sup> Degree honor guard consisting of Sir Knights, DD Jeremy Begenes, Jack Huey, Stephen Kosey, Steven Cornett, and Tom Forsthofel, kicked things off with the presentation of colors and Pledge of Allegiance. Grand Knight Tom Pitstick welcomed guests and 4<sup>th</sup> degree Knight Father Jason Bedel, Pastor of SMAFP and member and Chaplain of the Fairborn Council gave the blessing. The 100+ guests enjoyed a delicious dinner provided by Fairborn Knights lead by PGK Frank Minnick. Brother Knight Adam Kempf acted as Master of Ceremony introducing 10 true heroes including; law enforcement from Fairborn, Wright State University, Greene County Sherriff, Xenia Post of the Ohio State Patrol and WPAFB Security Forces; Fire Departments from Fairborn and WPAFB; Fairborn City Employee; Wounded Warrior, and Volunteer of the Year, Fairborn Council's own Percy Gros. Each received plaques and proclamations from Ohio Senate, Ohio House, and Greene County Commissioners. Dignitaries included SD Mike Felerski, Fairborn Deputy Mayor Rodney McCubbins, Ohio House Representative Brian Lampton, GC Commissioner Sarah Mays, Greene County Sheriff Scott Anger and Judge Beth Capelli (daughter of PGK, PSD Robert Wilhelm). Event Chairman PGK Grant Kempf is very appreciative to all the volunteers who made this great event possible.



Fairborn Council 3724 hosted a pancake and sausage breakfast for 92 parishioners at Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Community's Religious Education Graduation Class.

Knights who participated were:

GK Tom Pitstick, DGK Tim Barlow, PGK Frank Minnick, PGK Frank Carchedi, PGK Don Shepherd, PGK Russ Milliron, Brother Mark Dues, Brother Herb Edwards, Brother Jay LaPore, Brother Dave Gothard, and Brother Don Leopold.