



Buckeye Bulletin

Volume 1 - Issue 3 September - 2025

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

Greetings, Brother Knights of Ohio,

I hope you had a relaxing and fun summer. The Supreme Convention was held in Washington, DC, this past August with 10 delegates representing the great jurisdiction of Ohio. As with past conventions, this one was filled with energy and excitement, but it was even more so because this year **Saint Joseph Council 11370 in Maumee** won the International Community Program for their *Off the Streets Toledo* program:

Off the Streets Toledo was founded in 2021 to help both individuals and families move from homelessness to stable housing. Since its launch, more than 1,000 men, women and children have moved into safe, dignified homes thanks to the council's efforts. Council members meet with those in need, provide security deposits, manage warehouse inventory, deliver furniture, appliances, and other material needs, pray with recipients and offer them a Bible and crucifix as a sign of faith and encouragement - more than 175 crucifixes hang on the walls of participating families thanks to this effort. In addition, the council hosts multiple fundraising activities to provide ongoing support to the initiative.



Michael J. Felerski
State Deputy

mfelerski@icloud.com



Brothers of Saint Joseph Council, on behalf of your brother Knights around Ohio, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude for your exceptional charitable work and extend my heartfelt congratulations on this remarkable honor. You have undoubtedly answered the "Call" of service to your community.

On our way home from DC, Heather and I had the opportunity to attend Mass and visit with former State Chaplain Father Wayne Morris in Ironton. At the end of Mass Father Wayne gave me time to introduce myself and say a few words about the Knights. As we were leaving, four young adults approached us to find out more about information about our Order. They were part of a youth organization from Dayton (small world) and were interested in having myself or another Knight speak at one of their future meetings. I look forward to the forthcoming opportunity. When we receive information indicating a growing interest in the faith among young adults aged 18 to 24, it is undoubtedly accurate, and I have personally observed this now on several occasions.

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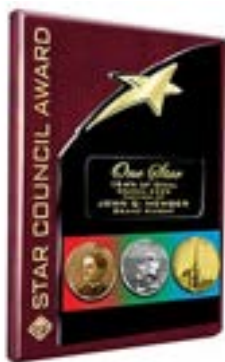
At the end of the month, Heather and I had a blast spending a day with our brother Knights at the German American Festival in Oregon (Ohio). It was an amazing experience, but what really touched me was the number of people who thanked the Knights through me for all the hard work our councils put in that weekend. They said the event wouldn't be possible without the support of the councils. It was truly amazing to see how our brothers and their wives of the 14 councils involved were so dedicated to serving others. Thank you so much for all you do and for showing Heather and I such a good time.



As we enter into September and the fall let us begin looking at creating a “Culture of Invitation” within our councils. Whether it is spiritually through Cor or through the corporal works of mercy of our programs, there should always be an open invitation to join with us in our mission to foster better, stronger Catholic men.

We Are Called!

Michael J. Felerski - State Deputy



Star Council Award Update

I received a report from Supreme listing the following: **64 councils** will receive the Star Council Award, which includes the Columbian, McGivney and Founder's Awards. **22 councils** will receive the Columbian Award. **17 Councils** will receive both the Columbian and Founder's Awards. **2 councils** will receive both the Columbian and McGivney Awards. **2 councils** will receive the Columbian, Founder and McGivney Awards. **10 councils** will receive the Founder's

Award. **19 councils** will receive the McGivney Award. And **2 councils** will receive the McGivney and Founder's Awards. A complete list of these awards will be included with the September Star Council Report distributed in early September.

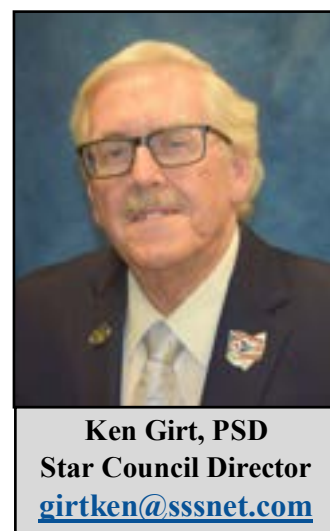
This is a reminder that the Ohio State Council will be holding a Mid-Year Star Council Award Incentive Drawing at the District Deputy Mid-Year Meeting on January 9-10, 2026, in Columbus. To qualify for this drawing, a council must accomplish the following by January 1, 2026:

- 1. Have the 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 2 activities credited in each of the 4 Faith in Action categories of the “We are Called” Program Contest.*

For every 20 councils that qualify, there will be four \$100 Walmart gift cards for our drawing. Please start working on the Star Council Award **NOW!**

And I want to remind you that we will have a new award at the state convention for all grand knights whose council achieve the 2025-2026 Star Council Award by May 1, 2026. The award will be called the “Ohio Star Council Award Recognition”, or “**OSCAR**”. Please note that receiving this “Oscar” award does not necessarily mean your council will achieve the Star Council Award from Supreme as of June 30, but they should. We encourage all councils not to wait until June to complete their Star Council Award requirements. Please start working on the Star Council Award **NOW!**

Ken Girt, PSD - State Star Council Director 330-608-1729



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

The Power to Save the World

My brother Knights,

As a culture, we are enamored with superheroes. The “Marvel cinematic universe,” an umbrella term for a series of superhero movies, TV shows, comics, games, and other related media has been an unprecedented success; just the movies alone have brought over \$30 billion in the years since the first one was released in 2008. While the magnitude of this franchise, and the sheer amount of money it has earned is unprecedented, what lies at the root of the storytelling of the franchise is not. Everyone, it seems, loves a good superhero story. The heroes of today might be Captain America and Iron Man; a generation or two ago they were Superman and Batman (and perhaps even James Bond). In generations before that, our “superheroes” went by other names: Aragorn & Gandalf, Luke Skywalker, or Mr. Spock. Going even further back, you could point to characters who were “antecedents” to the modern superhero archetype in figures like Robin Hood, Tarzan, various heroic cowboys played by John Wayne, or even some of the mythological heroes of old like Achilles, Odysseus, and Gilgamesh.

What is common link through all of these stories? There is some great battle of good versus evil, and our superhero bravely fights against evil and, through some power beyond what “normal people” would have, is able to overcome the forces of evil and save the world. And for normal people like us, there is something captivating about watching these amazing superheroes tap into their mysterious superpowers to save the day.

But the reality is... we already have at our fingertips the power to save the world. Blessed Pope Pius IX once said, “Give me an army praying the rosary and I will conquer the world.” As a Dominican friar, I wear a rosary as part of my religious habit. And all of the friars always wear the rosary on their belt on their **left** hip. I’m guessing many of you might not know the reason why. It’s because, in medieval times, men (presuming they were right-handed) wore their swords on their left hip. As Dominican friars, the rosary is our weapon, so we too wear our rosaries on our left hip.

The rosary is a powerful weapon against the power of Satan and all his minions.

For these and other reasons, I encourage all of you, my brother knights, to renew your devotion to Our Lady’s rosary and your trust in the power of Mary’s maternal intercession. Entrust yourself, your loved ones, our state, and our nation to Our Blessed Mother, who always leads us to a deeper relationship with her Son. I promise you will receive many powerful graces in your life as a result.

And who knows. You might even save the world.

Vivat Jesus!

Fr. John Paul - State Chaplain



Click [here](#) to view the 2nd YouTube video. *Eucharist: Source and Summit* (August) that is part of a monthly series by Ohio's State Chaplain of the Knights of Columbus - **Father John Paul Walker O.P.*

Each month these videos will cover some aspect of our Catholic faith. Click [here](#) for the the September video, *Sunday Mass in the Early Church*, which was just launched.

News from the State Secretary

Brothers,

Welcome to September. I want to thank all of you for your patience and understanding as we started the new fraternal year. There were some hiccups that have delayed some of the activities for which I am responsible, and I wanted to give you all an update.



First, State Per Capita invoices were sent out via the state email system. Thank you to the councils that have already paid their state per capita. I apologize and take the responsibility for failing to communicate to you the manner to which the invoices were sent out to the Financial Secretaries of record in July. I promise to do a better job going forward. I will be sending out, both email and USPS, invoices in September to those that have not paid.



Jim Maslach
State Secretary
kofcjk@gmail.com

Second, Mileage and Per Diem from State Convention: I will be preparing, for those councils that have paid their State Per Capita and attended the State Convention in Cleveland last May, their delegate Mileage and Per Diem checks. I will send the authorization to the State Deputy and start to send those to the Financial Secretaries.

Third, Super Cash Bonanza council rebate checks: For those councils that did not receive their rebate check during the July state tour, those authorizations will be sent to the State Deputy by the end of September. I would plan on those checks arriving in October to the Financial Secretaries. I know that this is a lot later than expected. Again, I apologize, but due to the hiccups with our bank at the start of the fraternal year and the additional costs for the state convention, we are behind. We appreciate your patience and understanding.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if there are any questions or concerns. You can contact me via phone/text at 440-785-9838 or email at kofcjk@gmail.com.

Jim Maslach - State Secretary



STATE OF OHIO APPAREL

MATT STAPLETON - STATE MERCHANDISE COORDINATOR



Polo Shirts @\$30

Dress Shirts @ \$38

Jacket/Vest @ \$48

(\$2 more for every X above XL, Talls start @ \$2 more) 1/4 Zip Fleece @ \$68



Several colors to choose from. Promote the order today!
"We Are Called..." to serve now serve in Style!!
Scan the QR code or follow the link on the State website
www.kofcoho.org

Growth Team Ohio

Fall Brings New Opportunities

We're already 2/3rd of the way through the First Quarter! How time flies!! Across the Great State of Ohio temps are already falling from their summer highs and soon (gasp!) frost will cover the ground! As we move forward into this new season, it's time to pick up the pace and start bringing those men who are still on the outside into the warm embrace of the Knights of Columbus in all of it's various ways!

And we have so many!!! Our charitable outreach, our Fraternal Care for each other, COR – we have the elements that each and every man wants to have in their life! And now is the time to share that with them! Fall is a time of recognizing that everything has a finality and that eventually the world will demand its payment. Knights of Columbus can help! Not only from an insurance point of view, but also from a Unity with each other point of view – for who else can help us on this Journey?

This turn of seasons also brings a new turn of Inviting! Thanks to work by the insurance arm, we now have a new Drive approach! Over the course of the next few months or so we will be expanding on the opportunities this new process gives all of us to help in our Invitational efforts! The materials are already available at Supplies Online and I encourage all of you to order these as soon as you can!

Please remember that each of us has a responsibility to Invite men into the Order! Without this growth, our Order will eventually decay and then die away. Seems a bit harsh, but in reality, it's very true. We need to be thinking not only of our councils of today, but of the councils of tomorrow. If we're not here to do the work, who will do it?

Remember, Inviting is a mindset, not a date

Vivat Jesus!

Mark Kosobud - State Growth Director



Mark Kosobud
State Growth Chairman
mkosobud@yahoo.com



Time is Running Out on a Great Opportunity

Worthy Brother Knights of Ohio,

Coats for Kids has been thriving here in Ohio! Thank you to all the councils that are participating! As a reminder, here is the order form link!



Order Here!

Please remember that your orders are due September 14, 2025 at 8:00 P.M. September 15th, our proposal goes into Supreme Council for approval. Coats will arrive in early November, and distribution sites will be announced around September 1. Please contact me for any questions you may have! Email is the best way, gsing50@gmail.com.

Vivat Jesus!

Greg Singlar - State Coats for Kids Coordinator



Greg Singlar
Coats for Kids
Coordinator
gsing50@gmail.com



**Knights of
Columbus®**
Ohio
State Council

We Are Called GROWTH TEAM OHIO

Q1 Incentives



Supreme Q1 Incentive

See the separate Supreme handout on the back.

Fast Start Challenge – July and August

The Council **Membership Director** in each Diocese with the highest percentage Growth for the period July 1, 2025 to August 31, 2025 will receive either:

1. A Bass Pro Shops Johnny Morris CarbonLife Tech Baitcast reel
2. A Bass Pro Shops Johnny Morris Platinum Signature Spinning Reel

eMembership Fast Start Challenge – Q1

The **Council** in each diocese who recruits AND TRANSFERS the most eMembers in the period July 1, 2025, to September 30, 2025 will receive a \$100 gift card.

District Deputy Growth Incentive – Q1

The **District Deputy** in each Diocese who encourages *all* of his assigned councils to recruit at least one new member and transfer them during the period July 1, 2025 to September 30, 2025, will receive a \$75 Knights Gear gift card.

Shining Armor Award – 11 Month Challenge

The first 100 completed Shining Armor Award cards turned into the State Growth Director, will have their pins paid for by the State Council and they will be entered into a drawing to win \$100. These pins will be purchased by the State and sent to the Grand Knight for presentation at the council. Anyone that sends in their completed Shining Armor Award cards after the first 100 will also be placed into a separate drawing to win \$100. Program runs “most” of the year, beginning July 1, 2025 and ending on the Saturday of the Ohio State Convention (May 16th), at which time the two drawings will be held.

Tied contests will be determined by placing all tied candidates into a hat and picking a winner.

2,100 New Knights
For Now and for Our Future
60 Star Councils



Have Faith in Your Mission

Worthy Brother Knights,

In First Corinthians, chapter 13, verse 13, it is written: “So faith, hope, love remain, these three; but the greatest of these is love.” With the recent tragic Catholic school shooting and subsequent mocking of prayer by politicians, media personalities, and celebrities, it is imperative that we as Catholic men be strong in faith, give hope to those around us, and to practice

God’s love for all.

I find it difficult to love those that would persecute us for being Catholic, those that would openly mock our faith. Jesus tells us that we must. For me, the only way to do so is to be steadfast in my faith and to evangelize those around me.

I, a sinner, am constantly and actively seeking to grow in faith. Men’s small group faith formation is one thing I participate in, and the Knights of Columbus provide that opportunity through Cor.

In Matthew, chapter 18, verse 20, it says: “For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.” That is all it takes to participate in Cor. In the rural outskirts of Bowling Green, I attempted to start Cor a couple of years ago, but it never really took off. Attending these meetings were the pastor, the deacon, and I, plus maybe one or two other men, but it was not consistent.

The deacon wanted to invite more men and started a regional group called Men of Virtue. This group meets once a month for fraternity, prayer, and formation. At our second meeting, we had twenty-two men show up. These men are from the far-flung corners of the western side of the Diocese of Toledo. It is not specifically called Cor, but it achieves the same goal as Cor.

I tell you this as an example of how it might not work out the way you want, but if you keep the faith, it will work out the way God intends.

In closing, I remind you all to pray regularly, be committed to your faith, and to show love to those that do not reciprocate. As always, please feel free to reach out with any questions you have regarding Cor.

Vivat Jesus!,

Arron Mier - State Director of Evangelization and Faith Formation



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

Supreme Resolutions to Know About

At this year’s Supreme Convention in Washington, D.C., in August, two specific resolutions were passed that will directly affect each council in the order. Below is a brief summary of each resolution and a link to the actual resolution as posted on Supreme Council’s website - kofc.org.

- Removal of the Admissions Committee - Section 108, which stipulates the appointment of an Admission Committee, be repealed

[Repealing Section 108 and Amending Sections 109 and 114 of the Laws of the Knights of Columbus](#)

- Change to the number of audits conducted by councils from two per year to only one annual audit - date not specified, but more than likely to coincide with the fraternal year (July 1-June 30)

[Amending Section 145 of the Laws of the Knights of Columbus](#)



2025 Matching Funds Campaign

My Brother Knights,
September is here and the Matching Funds program has begun. Please send your donations and Matching Funds form to: **Tony Offenberger**

State Advocate
15200 Muskingum River Road
Lowell, Ohio 45744



The Matching Funds campaign benefits Religious Education within your diocese. The first \$25,000 donated is matched by the Ohio Charity Foundation. Questions can be emailed to Tony at tonyoffenberger@gmail.com

Thanks and God bless you!

Tony Offenberger - State Advocate



Tony Offenberger
State Advocate
tonyoffenberger@gmail.com



Know Your Requirements

Worthy Brother Knights of the Great State of Ohio,

As I mentioned last month, Supreme Council is rolling out 8 new programs this fraternal year. Each program category (Community, Family, Faith, and Life) will have 2 programs added to it. Supreme has already rolled out the 2 new ones under Community (Celebrating Our Heritage and Bright Futures). The other 6 will be rolled out one at a time for the rest of the calendar year.

These programs address the needs and interests of Hispanic and Catholic parishes and communities. They attract potential members. They increase participation among existing members. They build bridges between Anglo and Hispanic communities within parishes.

This year, a series of program trainings will be produced for the first time from Supreme.

There will be Fraternal Trainings on how to run these programs. Each training will be for a specific program, and will be available in both Spanish and English.

This month, I am going to emphasize getting the administrative tasks done. For those councils that have not yet submitted their **Form 185** (Report of Officers) and their **Form 365** (Program Personnel), please do so as soon as possible. Submitting these forms in a timely fashion is the only way to let Supreme know who needs to receive council leadership information and programming communications throughout the fraternal year. The **Form 365** is also important so those who need to be Youth Compliant get the information they need to get it done! Not to mention both the **Form 185** and **Form 365** are required to not only max out the administrative activities, but also the We Are Called State General Program contest as well.

The same goes for submitting the Semi-Annual Council Audit, **Form 1295**. These audits are necessary to maintain the bonding on council treasurers and financial secretaries. Also, the submission of the Semi-Annual Council Audit, **Form 1295**, is a requirement to max out the administrative activities and the We Are Called State General Program contest just like the **Form 185** and **Form 365** are.

Lastly, State Per Capita is now due. If your council has already paid for its State Per Capita, thank you for doing so in a timely manner. For those councils who have not yet paid their State Per Capita, please do so as soon as possible! Just like the **Form 185**, **Form 365** and the Semi-Annual Council Audit, **Form 1295**, paying your State Per Capita is a requirement to max out the administrative activities and the We Are Called State General Program contest.

Happy Labor Day Weekend!

Fraternally,

Tim Mangan - State General Program Director



Tim Mangan
State General
Program Director
tjmangan@icloud.com



Ensure Every Student the Chance for a Bright Future

As the bell rings and school corridors fill once again with the buzz of eager students, many families are quietly wrestling with a mounting concern: the financial strain of sending their children back to school.

Community

While education opens doors and fosters dreams, the reality is that the price of tuition, supplies, uniforms, extracurricular activities—and even daily needs like lunches—can form an overwhelming burden for parents and guardians.

Recognizing this challenge, the Knights of Columbus have stepped forward with their Bright Futures Program, a beacon of hope for families across communities who are struggling to provide quality education for their children. This comprehensive initiative is thoughtfully designed to alleviate the financial pressures associated with schooling, ensuring every child has the opportunity to learn, grow, and thrive.

Each new academic year brings with it a checklist of expenses: registration fees, books, technology requirements, field trips, extracurricular costs, and in some cases, private school tuition. For families already balancing tight budgets, these expenses can be daunting. The impact reaches beyond numbers on a bill—it can affect a child's self-esteem, participation in school life, and ultimately, their academic performance and opportunities.

A single child's education can require hundreds—even thousands—of dollars each year. For families with multiple children, or those facing unexpected hardships such as medical bills, job loss, or emergencies, the prospect of paying for school can feel insurmountable. This is where support networks and community action become not just helpful, but transformative.

The Knights of Columbus have been synonymous with faith in action—charitable outreach, community support, and unwavering commitment to the values of unity and fraternity. With a deep understanding of the challenges faced by families today, Supreme Council developed the Bright Futures Program as a tangible response to the modern realities of education.

The vision is simple but powerful: No child should be denied educational opportunities because of financial barriers.

The Bright Futures Program is a multifaceted initiative that empowers local Knights of Columbus councils to directly support students and families. While the specific offerings may vary by community, the core mission remains the same—helping students succeed by easing the financial burdens that can hinder their educational journey.

One of the cornerstone features of the Bright Futures Program is the establishment of scholarship funds. Councils can raise funds through community events, partnerships, and donations, then award scholarships to deserving students. These scholarships may cover partial or full tuition, registration fees, or essential supplies, ensuring that families who need the most support receive targeted assistance.

Scholarship recipients are chosen based on need, merit, or a combination of criteria determined by your council. By investing in students' futures, we are not only empowering individuals but strengthening the broader community.

In addition to scholarships, the Bright Futures Program supports tuition assistance initiatives for families facing short-term or unforeseen hardships. These programs offer flexibility and rapid response, ensuring that a change in circumstances—such as a sudden illness, job loss, or family emergency—does not mean the end of a child's education.

The costs of school supplies and uniforms can quickly add up, particularly for families supporting multiple children. Our councils can help by organizing back-to-school drives, donating backpacks and supplies, or direct assistance for

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Matt Smith
Community Director
matt.smith1974kofc@gmail.com



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required uniforms. By equipping students with the tools they need, we can provide the child a sense of belonging and confidence from the very first day of school.

Learning does not stop at the classroom door. Participation in after-school programs, sports, arts, and clubs is vital for a child's social and emotional development. Unfortunately, the cost of these activities can exclude the very children who would benefit most.

Your councils can orchestrate after-school programs and help subsidize participation fees for sports teams, music lessons, and extracurricular clubs. This not only enriches children's educational experience but also supports working parents, many of whom rely on after-school activities for safe, structured care until the workday ends.

Beyond financial support, the Bright Futures Program fosters connections between students, families, and the broader community. Knights volunteer as mentors, tutors, and role models, offering guidance and encouragement to help students build resilience, set goals, and believe in their own potential. Whether through homework help, career days, or leadership workshops, these positive relationships can make a lasting difference.

The success of the Bright Futures Program depends on the vision, energy, and compassion of your council.

Education is the foundation of a just, vibrant, and prosperous society. Yet for too many families, the costs associated with schooling threaten to close doors before they can even be opened.

As councils across Ohio provide support for students and families, the message is clear: Every child deserves a chance to succeed, and together, we can help build the bright futures they deserve.

Vivat Jesus!

Matt Smith - State Community Director



Making a Difference

Brothers,

We recently found out that Supreme Council has approved the purchase of 3 ultrasound machines in the state of Ohio! They have already sent the checks for half of the cost of the machines. Congratulations to **St. Leonard, Council 10215, Sts. Francis and Gaspar Council**

Life **10749, and St. Ladislav Council 16373** for taking the lead in these purchases. These machines will be placed in Dayton, Fostoria, and Garfield Heights, respectively. I also want to thank all those other councils that assisted these three with funds. The purchases would not have been possible without your help.

The Ohio March for Life is just about a month away on October 3. It would be great to have a large contingent of Knights and families from around the state rallying together with other pro-life organizations. If you are planning on attending, they are asking you to please go to marchforlife.org/ohio/ and register.

If you are looking for a bus trip, St. Ambrose Council has one leaving from Brunswick for \$35, which includes a box lunch. Contact Marty Shaw to register - mshaw603@gmail.com. There are a couple of other non-Knights groups that have buses that you can join if you go to the March for Life website (marchforlife.org/ohio/).

If you are planning carpools, please let your DD know. He may know a person or two that may like to join you. We don't want to leave anyone behind. The rally starts at 11:00 and the march at noon. The earlier that you arrive, the easier parking will be.

Vivat Jesus,

Mike Incorvati - State Life Director



Mike Incorvati
Life Director

mlbincorvati@gmail.com



We Are Called: Strengthening Catholic Men in Faith, Brotherhood, and Service

Month Three: Virtue and Vice - Forming a Holy Character

Brothers,

Last month, we rediscovered the strength of brotherhood. Now we enter the crucible where character is forged: virtue.

Faith

Men were made to lead not just physically, but spiritually and morally. But leadership begins not in public, but in the hidden life of self-mastery. Holiness is not passivity. Virtue is not weakness. Self-control is a mark of real strength. To lead others, we must first rule ourselves. The word *virtue* comes from the Latin *virtus*, meaning strength and *virtus* comes from *vir*, meaning man. To be virtuous is to be strong and truly manly in God's eyes.

"Virtue is a habitual and firm disposition to do the good." *CCC 1803*

This isn't about one-time heroic acts. It's about consistent character built like muscle, by repetition and resistance. Rooting out vice. Facing our patterns of sin. Building up virtue, one intentional act at a time.

"The world offers you comfort. But you were not made for comfort. You were made for greatness." *Pope Benedict XVI*

What Kind of Man Am I Becoming?

Brothers, **the man you become is the legacy you leave.**

Every man is being formed by something. Either by grace or by the world. Either toward virtue or toward vice.

"A man without self-control is like a city broken into and left without walls." *Proverbs 25:28*

The world trains us to chase comfort, compromise integrity, and call it success. But Scripture and Tradition tell us: real manhood is moral strength. Character. Self-mastery. The courage to say *yes* to the hard right, and *no* to the easy wrong.

"Be strong, and show yourself a man." *1 Kings 2:2*

"Act like men, be strong." *1 Corinthians 16:13*

"The fruit of the Spirit is... self-control." *Galatians 5:22-23*

The saints didn't start holy. They were *formed*, **as we are** ONE decision at a time.

- **St. Augustine** (Aug 28): overcame a life of lust through truth and discipline.
- **Pier Giorgio Frassati** (Canonized Sept 7): lived joy, purity, and service.
- **St. Matthew** (Sept 21): left behind greed to become an Apostle.
- **Padre Pio** (Sept 23): endured suffering and scandal with faith and love.

The Archangels, St. Michael, St. Gabriel, St. Raphael (Sept 29): defends us in spiritual battle.

The Battle Within

Virtue is the foundation of strength, the habit of choosing the good. The muscle memory of the soul. Vice, on the other hand, is the enemy's counterfeit: habitual sin that slowly steals a man's strength. Lust. Anger. Pride. Sloth. Envy. These spiritual cancers grow best when no one's watching.

But you don't have to be perfect. You have to fight.

This fight begins in the heart. It's a battle between your lower instincts and your higher calling. Our world trains men to react, not to reflect. To escape, not to endure. To perform, not to persevere. But virtue is forged in discipline, prayer, silence, and accountability.

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Chris Crum
Faith Director

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This is the same battle fought by:

- **Bl. Carlo Acutis**(Canonized Sept 7): chose purity & Eucharistic devotion in a digital age.
- **St. John Chrysostom** (Sept 13): preached truth without fear.
- **St. Robert Bellarmine** (Sept 17): lived clarity and courage, boldly in the public square
- **St. Joseph of Cupertino** (Sept 18): modeled surrender and humility.

St. Gabriel the Archangel (Sept 29): proclaimed God's message with power.

"Do not conform to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind." *Romans 12:2*

"Live in a manner worthy of your calling." *Ephesians 4:1*

This Month's Challenge

1. **Identify the Battle:** What vice are you facing? Bring it to Confession. Leave it like Matthew left the tax booth.
2. **Choose Your Weapon:** Pick one virtue. Just one. Ask the saints to train you. **Pio** for prayer, **Carlo** for purity, **Joseph** for humility.
3. **Train with a Brother:** Be honest. Check in weekly. Confess. Encourage. Pray.
4. **Lead at Home:** Talk about virtue. Practice it with your wife and kids. Show them strength under pressure. Let them hear and see you striving for it!

Build New Habits: Fast. Pray. Silence your phone. One act a day. Small acts build holy men.

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied." *Matthew 5:6*

Step In: Practical Formation

- **Virtue Night:** Teach the cardinal virtues. Pair each with a saint. Let men reflect, share, and set goals.
- **Vice Inventory:** Name your vice. Name its opposite. Make a plan. Share it with a brother.
- **Confession & Prayer:** Start the Litany of St. Joseph. Pray it daily. Make it yours.
- **30-Day Challenge:** Track one virtue. One act a day. Pray. Reflect. Repeat.

Accountability Partner: One man. One check-in a week. One path to progress.

This is how we become the men God created us to be.

Be a man of justice. Be a man of courage. Be a man of prayer.

You are not fighting alone.

You are training with the saints.

We Are Called. We Are Equipped.

This is Month Three.

Next Month: Month Four — Prayer and Sacramental Life: Men of Faith and Action

Vivat Jesus!

Chris Crum - State Faith Director

District Deputy Reminder

Just a quick reminder that all District Deputies are required to submit an annual report of the status of each and every council in your district (**Form 944**) by Sept. 15th. This should be done through the online form, the link for this form is listed below: (one submission for each council). Please don't delay!

[Form 944](#)





Not too Late to Submit Summer Family Activity Reports

Worthy Brother Knights of the Great State of Ohio,

Family

The Summer has passed us by, and we are about to begin our Fall activities in our Councils. There are still lots of Family Activities that you can report. Some of you perhaps are still having, or recently had a Parish/Council Family

Picnic. Do not forget to report on that and include any pics of the picnic with your families that may have been taken.



Many of you have sent in your Family activity reports in the past 2 months, some of them were great and made notable. However, there are 14 different councils that have reports that I have reviewed that submitted information for an event, but there was not enough information to reward you the points.

I WANT ALL COUNCILS TO MAXIMIZE THEIR FAMILY PROGRAM POINTS

In my director's notes I asked you to send back to me more information about your event. An example of what is needed would be: How many families were in attendance, how many Knights were there and participated, how many meals were served to families. Please reply back with the additional information, and I will reward your council with the points. Try to include as much information as you can, including any pictures that were taken. This also pertains to your Family of the Month. Include as much information and any pictures that you can. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me and I will gladly assist you.

Vivat Jesus !!

Michael Freil - State Family Director



Michael Freil
Family Director
mcfreil2019@gmail.com

Belated

HAPPY
LABOR DAY
★ ★ ★



Excerpts from the Fourth Degree Update - August 2025

September, October, and November are great months to focus on the Warriors to Lourdes Program. It is a smaller pilgrimage within the International Military Pilgrimage, which began in 1946 to promote reconciliation and peace after World War II. Ever since, for one weekend in May, Lourdes, France, has become a place of prayer and healing for active-duty military and veterans representing more than forty nations. The Knights of Columbus, in partnership with the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA, provides the opportunity and means for our non-wounded, wounded, ill, and injured U.S. warriors to participate in the Warriors to Lourdes pilgrimage for a period of prayer and spiritual guidance. All expenses for approved non-wounded, wounded, ill, or injured military personnel, as well as their designated caregiver, are covered by the Knights of Columbus Charities, Inc.

- This is an incredible opportunity for assemblies and councils to hold a joint breakfast or dinner, with the proceeds dedicated to this program.
- Another idea is to hold a special collection during a specific weekend in September, October, and November. With the approval of the parish priest, the Fourth Degree could wear their regalia at Mass to collect donations. (this has been approved by Ron Boyce, PSD, Supreme's Fourth Degree Director of Programs)

Application & Companion Information:

If you know a Warrior who wishes to apply to join or would like to volunteer as a companion for the pilgrimage, please visit the Warriors to Lourdes website www.warriorstolourdes.com and fill out the 2026 Warrior to Lourdes Application by January 15, 2026.

Companions are invited to attend and may be offered needs-based financial assistance on a case-by-case basis with a validated Chaplain's certification of need. The AMS-K of C package rate for companions and volunteers traveling from the United States to Lourdes is \$3,000.00 for double occupancy and \$3,300.00 for a single occupancy room. All applications and payments are due by January 15, 2026. The applications are reviewed by the K of C pilgrimage leadership team and medical director for selection. All applicants are notified of the status of their application beginning February 15, 2026.

Vivat Jesus!



2025 Pro Football Fund Crazr Campaign



LIST OF REBATES

NO STATE PER CAPITA!!

*For councils selling their 150% quota and 35,960 tickets are sold statewide
OR councils will receive the percentage credit of the 35,960 tickets sold statewide*

COUNCIL QUOTA IS 95% OF TOTAL MEMBERSHIP – 5/1/2025

COUNCILS SELLS 150% + OF THEIR QUOTA – \$9.00 per ticket + 100% Credit on Per Capita

COUNCILS SELLS 100% + OF THEIR QUOTA – \$8.00 per ticket + 75% Credit on Per Capita

COUNCILS THAT SELL 75% OF THEIR QUOTA – \$7.00 per ticket + 50% Credit on Per Capita

COUNCILS THAT SELL 50% OF THEIR QUOTA – \$6.50 per capita + 25% Credit on Per Capita

**** EXTRA!!! ****

ADDITIONAL INCENTIVES = MORE REBATES!!!

\$.50 - Increase in rebates on all tickets sold when your council exceeds last year's sales by 5%.

\$1.00 - Increase in rebates on all tickets sold when your council reaches the 200% level.

\$.50 – Increase on rebates on all tickets sold when your diocese exceeds last year sales by 10%

\$.25 - Increase in rebates on all tickets sold if 28,750 tickets are sold statewide.

PLUS: THERE IS MORE REBATES!!

JOIN THE "500" CLUB

If your council sells 500 tickets
or reaches their quota at the 500% level
then each council ticket sold will receive
an additional \$1.00 in rebates.



35,960 tickets SOLD is our GOAL!!

Earn \$ and per capita credit



**Knights of
Columbus®**

A CAREER UNLIKE ANY OTHER

Become a Financial Sales Professional with the Knights of Columbus.

Our financial professionals work with members to offer insurance solutions and annuity products that protect their income, prepare for retirement, and ensure their family is protected in the case of the unexpected.



YOUR MISSION

- ▶ Offer clients access to annuities and insurance products
- ▶ Join a team of nearly 1,000 financial professionals
- ▶ Work with an organization that is committed to charity – using a portion of its earnings to donate over \$1.7 billion over the last decade.
- ▶ Represent and support the world's largest Catholic lay organization.



YOUR DEVELOPMENT

- ▶ Access to proven training and sales techniques
- ▶ Marketing and technology support
- ▶ Mentorship opportunities
- ▶ Ongoing professional development and training
- ▶ Bonus incentives to become a licensed investment advisor representative
- ▶ Career advancement opportunities



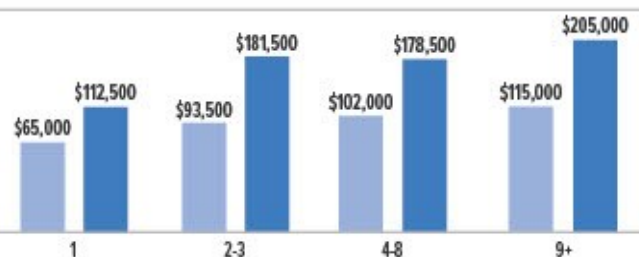
YOUR SUCCESS

- ▶ Commission-based compensation system
- ▶ Assigned territory of members upon contract
- ▶ Flexible home-based work schedule
- ▶ Eligible for sales performance incentives, contests and trips
- ▶ Cash balance retirement plan

FIELD AGENT EARNINGS

■ Average ■ Top 10%

Data as of December 31, 2023. "Earnings" refers exclusively to first-year commissions. Data uses average earnings from full calendar years 2014-2023 and only for agents who earned at least \$1,000 in a full year of production. However, the Top 10% amounts shown reflect threshold averages to make the Top 10% and not average earnings of agents in the Top 10%. First-year range is \$1,000-\$158,404.57. Average earnings shown are not guaranteed. Results vary by individual performance.



JOIN OUR TEAM TODAY

Eligibility requirements include membership to the Knights of Columbus and an active state life and health insurance license prior to onboarding.
One Columbus Plaza New Haven, CT 06510

Around the Buckeye State Supreme Convention - 2025 Washington, D.C.



Above - State Deputy Mike Fellerski and his wife Heather stand in front of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC

At right, Ohio State Council Officers and Ohio delegates to the Supreme Convention.



Around the Buckeye State Supreme Convention - 2025 Washington, D.C.



State Chaplain, Fr. John Paul Walker, OP, processes in during one of the State Convention Masses.



State Deputy Mike Felerski showing his Ohio pride during the States Dinner procession.

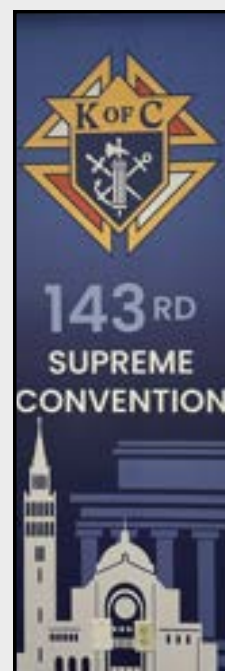


Ohio State Council Officers prior to the States Dinner at this year's Supreme Convention:
Left to right - State Warden Stew Vetter, State Advocate Tony Offenberger, State Treasurer Chris Sarka, State Secretary Jim Maslach, State Deputy Mike Felerski, and Immediate Past State Deputy Jeff Kiliany

Around the Buckeye State Supreme Convention - 2025 Washington, D.C.



Ohio State Council Officers and delegates enjoyed a relaxing evening of fellowship and food in Washington, D.C. for the 143rd Supreme Convention.



One of the highlights of every Supreme Convention is the formal States Dinner, featuring delegates from every jurisdiction of the order showing their pride.

Around the Buckeye State



Knights of Columbus®

The St. Joseph Marblehead Knights of Columbus were recently honored for donating \$2100.00 to the 2024 Support Our Seminarians (SOS) campaign. The Silver Award Plaque was presented at the July monthly meeting, and the St. Joseph Council was the only one in their Regional District to receive this award! And in even better news, this years Memorial Day SOS collection raised over \$2300!!

While the effort was initiated by the St. Joseph K of C, all the credit belongs to our many parishioners, guests, and friends who so generously contributed to this more than worthy cause.



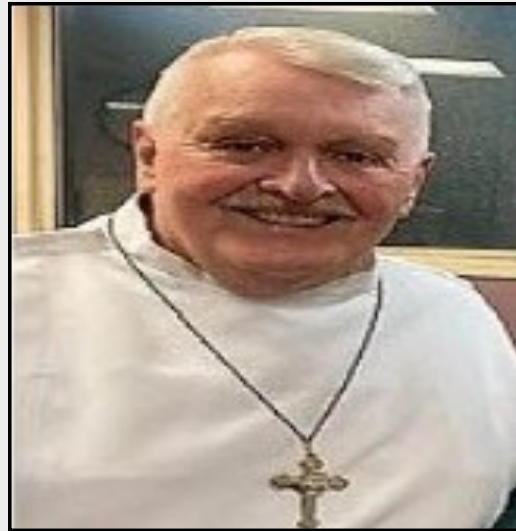
St. Dominic-Delhi Council #15533 manned the Delhi Skirt Game grilled food booth for the Thursday, July 1 tailgate party. A total of 25 Knights and wives volunteered to help out for 3-hour shifts. Several other members volunteered for other assignments, such as parking and security. Although council workers were signed up for three-hour shifts, many put in more time than that, including several who manned the booths for the entire event. Altogether, council members put in approximately 100 man-hours of work in the booth.

Around the Buckeye State



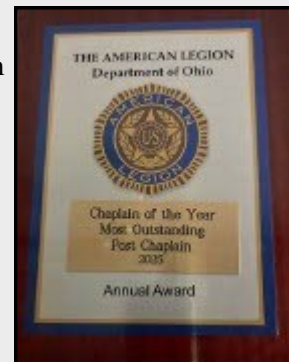
On Thursday, July 31st, Christ Our Savior Parish K of C Council 4471 hosted a Red Cross Blood Drive at Struthers' Mauthe Park. Close to 20 donors attended supplying much needed blood for the area's needs. The Knights of Columbus hosts this event about every 56 days in order to continue providing the much needed supply of blood and/or plasma here in the Youngstown area.

Brother Knights from **Struthers' Christ Our Savior Council 4471**, Lee Ewsich, Rich Burns, Bob Granchie and Rich Zoldak, help with registration at a recent Red Cross Blood Drive. (Missing from photo is Bob Sepesy)



Lafayette Council 3970 of Independence's Deputy Grand Knight and 4th Degree Sir Knight, John C. Murphy, during the recent Ohio American Legion State Convention that was held in Independence, was named their Chaplain of the Year for being the most Outstanding Post Chaplain of the 2025 Year.

Besides John's involvement with his various Veteran's organizations and the Knights of Columbus, John services the 4:30 pm Saturday Masses, Funeral Masses, and is a Eucharistic Minister of St. Michael's in Independence. **Congratulations!**



Around the Buckeye State



At Mary, Help of Christians Church, Father Patrick Blenman Blessed the new Statue of St. Michael the Archangel and accompanying icons of Archangels Raphael and Gabriel before leading a procession to the new St. Michael the Archangel devotion chapel.

Fairborn Council 3724 participated in the procession and graciously gifted the statue and icons.



Youngstown Bishop David Bonnor blesses an icon of Blessed Fr. Michael J. McGivney presented by IPSD Jeff Kiliany. This icon will be presented to the State Deputy of Vermont at a later date by Beri Berardi, Historian Emeritus of K of C Council # 1 (pictured at right with Bishop Bonnar).

At bottom left State Deputy Mike Feler-ski and IPSD Jeff Kiliany pose with Bishop David Bonnar, Msgr. Robert Siffrin, and various 4th Degree members at the Maronite Shrine of Our Lady of Lebanon on August 13th for the presentation of the Blessed McGivney icon.



Around the Buckeye State



Ohio District 3 in the Fourth Degree Fr. Hennepin Province held two installation of assembly officer ceremonies. District Master, Dean Moshier, installed 30 Sir Knights into their offices after a Mass at Powell St. Joan of Arc on Saturday, August 9 (above). The ceremony was followed by a dinner in the social hall attended by 55 Sir Knights and guests. This event was hosted by Columbian Martyrs Assembly 2380. The following Saturday, August 16, 10 Sir Knights were installed into their offices after the celebration of Mass at The Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption in Marietta (below). This was also followed by a dinner hosted by Bishop Harley Assembly 840 with 30 Sir Knights and guests.

