

Youngstown Connection

August 2026

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- Aug 12 - Blessed Fr. McGivney's birthday
- Aug 15 - Annual Audit Due

Know the Changes to the Supreme and State Programs

Brother Knights,

Thank you to everyone who attended the State Tour stop for the Youngstown Diocese at the Immaculate Conception Parish Hall in Ravenna, and thank you to Immaculate Conception Council 1417 for hosting this event & providing lunch for everyone.



It was a great lunch and even greater turnout. The meeting ran longer than we had hoped, and I apologize for that, but because of all the changes that Supreme made to the Star council requirements, it was important to spend a little extra time to clarify them. A recap of those are available on the state website under ACTIVITIES > State Tour.

6 Councils from the Youngstown Diocese qualified for the "Star Council" Award this year. They were **5286, 341, 554, 5582, 14959, and 15458**. I did not get an Awards Report for July 1, so I don't know the final number, but I believe Council 14959. Congratulations to all of these councils. We hope to continue to build on this achievement and grow this number of Star Councils to 12 this new fraternal year. We will once again be stressing council participation in the State Program. We want to encourage each and every council to, not only do these suggested activities, but to report them on the State Website as well.

We had 2 councils from the Youngstown Diocese that Maxed the State "Let Us Be Worthy" Program last year, as well as a number of others who scored very high and received many awards at this year's State Convention in Columbus. Special accolades go to **Massillon Council 554** and **Rt Rev Msgr Anthony P Boeff Council 5582** for maxing the State Program with 1000 points and receiving the "Superior" award! A big shout out to Msgr Boeff Council 5582 and Grand Knight Arron Shiplett on being named the top council in Division 2 and the number 2 council overall in the State of Ohio.

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ASSUMPTION OF MARY

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At the Youngstown Diocese tour meeting, I had the privilege to present on behalf of all the councils from the Youngstown Diocese, an SOS check to newly appointed Director of Vocations for the Youngstown Diocese, Father William Wainio. The check was for the amount of \$ 19,546.06. That was the total “Support Our Seminarians” contributions from the councils in the Youngstown Diocese. Although we didn’t beat the 2024 record amount of \$21,018, this was our third highest amount. A very significant contribution to our Youngstown Diocese Vocations Department, and will certainly help our seminarians from the diocese. For some reason, council participation was down this year. But, to all the councils who did submit a, SOS contribution, thank you very much for your efforts for this cause. I would like to see every council in the Diocese participate in “Support of Seminarians” this year and make a contribution, no matter how large or small, and get 100% participation.



Father Wainio thanks the Knights of Columbus councils from our Diocese for their “outpouring of support and generosity that my brother Knights of the Councils of Northeast Ohio have shown to the Diocesan Vocations Office and to the men that are in formation for priesthood at this time.” “I speak from experience when I tell you of all the good that the Knights of Columbus do to support our men in formation. Your generosity means that our men can concentrate on prayer, study, and service, and not be forced to worry about material and transitory distractions that can prove to be the cause of so much anxiety. Similarly, this showing of considerable support will allow the Vocations Office to continue the good work of promoting and accompanying men in the future who heroically heed the call of the Father to serve the Church of Jesus Christ.”

It’s not too early to start planning your SOS Fundraising projects for the 2026-27 campaign.

Brothers, I am looking forward to another outstanding year here in the Youngstown Diocese! Are You??

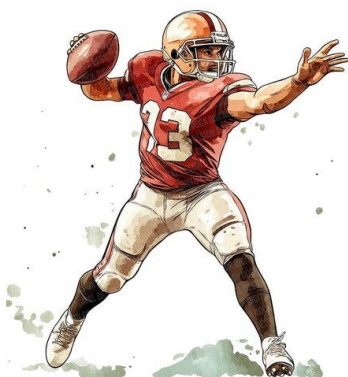
Vivat Jesus!

Jeff Kilianny - Immediate Past State Deputy

Football Frenzy

As was mentioned at our State Tour meeting, Football Crazr Sweepstakes tickets are a great way for your council to pick up some extra funds since many councils’ fundraising projects have been reduced after the pandemic years. I will have extra Football Sweepstakes tickets if your council is in need of additional tickets to sell this year. Your council will get at least \$5.50 for each ticket sold. The earnings can be even higher if your quotas are met or exceeded. You also can get a 25% or more credit towards your council’s State per capita if you meet at least 33% of your council’s quota based on membership. Your council rebates, as well as the percent reduction in council per capita, increase as your council ticket sales increase. If you do not already have Football Crazr tickets for your council, contact PSD Gary Eckstein gary.eckman@sbcglobsl.net or (614)-679-4238 and let him know how many tickets your council needs.

If you are not selling football tickets as a council this year, please let me know, so we can arrange for your members to have an opportunity to purchase tickets.



Answering the Call: Building the Future of the Knights of Columbus in the Youngstown Diocese

Every generation is presented with an opportunity to make a difference. Today, men throughout the Diocese of Youngstown are being called to answer that challenge by becoming part of an organization that has been changing lives for more than 140 years—the Knights of Columbus.

Founded on the principles of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity, the Knights of Columbus exists to strengthen families, serve our parishes, and bring Christ's love into our communities through action. Whether we are supporting seminarians, assisting those in need, promoting a culture of life, or lending a helping hand after disasters, Knights are ordinary Catholic men doing extraordinary things together.

As Growth Coordinator for the Youngstown Diocese, I have witnessed firsthand the tremendous impact our councils have on their parishes and communities. I have also seen the friendships that develop, the faith that deepens, and the sense of purpose that grows when men answer the call to serve.

Membership is about far more than attending meetings. It is about becoming part of a brotherhood that encourages men to become stronger husbands, fathers, grandfathers, and leaders. It is about passing on our Catholic faith by example and ensuring that our parishes remain vibrant for future generations.

The future of the Knights depends on each of us inviting another Catholic man to join. Every council member has a story about why he became a Knight. Sharing that story may be all it takes to inspire someone else to discover the same sense of purpose and belonging.



If you have ever wanted to make a greater difference in your parish or community, there has never been a better time to become a Knight. No one is expected to do everything, but every member can do something. Together, those individual acts of service become a powerful witness to our Catholic faith.

I encourage every Catholic man in the Diocese of Youngstown to consider joining the Knights of Columbus. Bring your talents, your faith, and your willingness to serve. You will discover a brotherhood that supports you, challenges you to grow spiritually, and provides countless opportunities to make a lasting difference.

Together, let us continue building stronger parishes, stronger families, and stronger communities. The next chapter of the Knights of Colum-

bus in the Diocese of Youngstown begins with one invitation, one new member, and one man willing to answer God's call.

Vivat Jesus!

Mark E Kahanca - Diocesan Growth Coordinator



Oct 2, 2026 - Ohio March for Life

The Supreme Court decision to overturn Roe vs Wade was a great victory for LIFE!
But the war on Life is far from over.



Interested parties from outside the State of Ohio, namely Planned Parenthood, have managed to have an abortion proposal pass on our November State of Ohio ballot 2 years ago. This amendment that is so-called “Right to Reproductive Freedom with Protections for Health and Safety,” makes abortion legal throughout pregnancy, providing no protections for the preborn, and remove all restrictions previously in place in Ohio.

The position of the Bishops from the State of Ohio is clear. The church must not be silent and cannot remain on the sidelines when confronted with such a clear threat to human life.

A rally and March For Life will be held at the Ohio Statehouse on Friday, October 2, 2026. The rally in front of the Statehouse will be held at 11:00 AM and the March For Life will follow, beginning at 12:00 noon.

We need a huge turnout of Knights and their wives to show the nation that Life in Ohio is still precious in our state, and we will continue the fight in support of LIFE, not accepting a culture of DEATH.



2026-2027 Youngstown Diocese District Deputies

District 71 - Gary Hicks

Councils 360, 4212, 5286, 5589, *620, *5063
garyhicks.5286@gmail.com 440-417-3578

District 72 - Ronald Cricks, Jr.

Councils 341, 2530, 3777, 14959
rericks@kofc341.org 330-353-3677

District 73 - Bryan Stewart

Councils 554, 5582, 11037, 15458
thebryanstewart@icloud.com 330-605-8840

District 74 - Paul L. Eckinger

Councils 558, 4533, 4733, 13289
paul@eckingermarketing.com 330-284-4075

District 75 - Louis Drouhard

Councils 1411, 1417, 2039, 5173, 15312
lpdrouhard@gmail.com 216-688-5715

District 76 - Edward Zwolinski

Councils 3766, 4571, 11801, 14186
edwardzwolinski@gmail.com 440-413-4246

District 77 - Ray Morelli

Councils 507, 1569, 4049, 13371
raymorelli@comcast.net 330-719-9455



District 78 - Willard Lutz

Councils 1818, 1890, 10183, 11551
wrl88@comcast.net 330-519-7384

District 79 -

Councils 620, 4484, 5063, 17398
Councils reassigned pending new DD assignment

District 80 - Michael Michetti

Councils 1681, 7491, 13260, *4484, *17398
thielcatalum@gmail.com 330-240-9671

District 81 - Ron Santangelo

Councils 4471, 11915, 12756, 15573
rjs1957@hotmail.com 330-550-2205

District 82 - John Mashiska

Councils 3930, 11369, 13466, 13977
afhs1975@gmail.com 330-519-6753

District 83 - Raymond Zornjak

Councils 274, 2935, 3813, 13586, 15959
rsz2916@zoominternet.net 330-423-3344

State Per Capita Invoices

State Per Capita Invoices for the 2026-27 Fraternal Year Are Available!



To reduce operating expenses, the first per capita statement is being made available electronically. An email message was sent by State Secretary, Jim Maslach, to all Financial Secretaries of record on Thursday, June 25, 2026. Your billing statement is available through the State Council's Google Drive directory linked at the bottom of the email message, sorted by council number. The PDF may be downloaded and printed, and payment should be returned by August 31, 2026. Please use the coupon at the bottom of the billing statement. Payment may be made by check, money order, or credit/debit card. We appreciate your prompt payment, as these funds support the State Council's operations and programs throughout the year.

If you are unable to access the drive through the email link, please contact Jim Maslach, and he will assist you or send your statement directly. This process is saving the state more than \$2,000 in printing and postage costs. Per Capita payments are due by August 31, 2026.

Matching Funds

The State "Matching Funds" program begins **September 1st and runs through November 15, 2026**. The Ohio Charity Foundation, Inc. of the Ohio State Council is matching the first \$25,000 donated to this year's program. All councils in the diocese should be participating in this program. The Youngstown Diocese has led the state in council participation the past five years, and we want to see that continue. If you didn't participate last year, please consider even donating some token amount to get your council involved. Even a \$25 donation to Matching Funds will yield a \$50 contribution to the Youngstown Diocese.

Bring the Matching Funds program up in your August meeting, so that you can vote on a contribution and send it in early in September, so that your contribution will get matched. We had numerous council contributions that didn't get matched last year, because the checks were sent in late October and the \$25,000 was already used up. I would predict that this year the \$25,000 "Match" will be used up by the end of September. All donations stay in the Youngstown Diocese. A very large percentage of your donations from Youngstown Diocese councils will go to the Youngstown Diocese Media Library, which is used by many of our parishes, Catholic schools, priests, and seminarians throughout the Youngstown Diocese. The rest of the contributions are used by the Religious Education Department of the diocese to help get those additional items that regular diocesan funding is not able to cover.

Last year, the Youngstown Diocese presented the largest check in the state of Ohio. We had the largest check presented last year because we had the most councils get their contribution "matched" by the foundation. We also had the highest number of council and assembly participation in the state. State Advocate & Matchings Funds Director, Tony Offenberger, sent out a postcard to your council explaining how important our annual combined council contributions are to our Religious Education Department in our Diocese. **Please get your council's Matching Funds contribution submitted early this year.**



Youngstown Membership Contest Continues in 2026-2027

Our diocesan Membership Incentive program will continue throughout the 2026-2027 fraternal year. The incentives are again listed below. Standings for the contest will continue to be updated and posted monthly in this newsletter to give you an idea where your council might stand.

The official numbers posted by Supreme will determine the winners. The time frame for the contest again will be July 1, 2025 thru June 30, 2026, and the winners will be announced with the check presentations at the tour meeting in July, 2026.

- **The First Prize of \$150.00 will go to the council with the Highest % Increase** of members for the Fraternal Year 2024-2025.
- **The Second Prize of \$100.00 will go to the council with the Highest Number of New Members**, regardless of council size, for the Fraternal Year 2024-2025 is \$100.00.

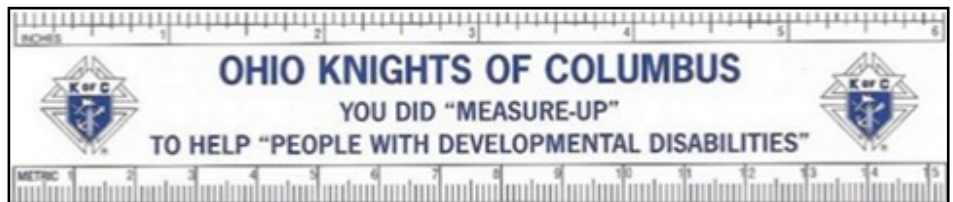
If the same council achieves both marks, the \$100.00 will be paid to the 2nd place council with the **Highest % Increase**.

The official numbers posted by Supreme will determine the winners. The time frame for the contest again will be July 1, 2026 thru June 30, 2027, and the winners will be announced with the check presentations at the tour meeting in July, 2027.

Measure Up

This year's 2026 Measure Up Program will run until Nov 1st. If you have not yet sent in your council's Measure Up contribution, and you still have any donations such as Gimme-5, local business donations, fundraiser or street collections, please contact and get the form and check to Stew Vetter, State Warden. All of the information is available on the state website under PROGRAMS > Measure Up.

M. Stewart Vetter, State Warden
706 Northwest Street
Bellevue, OH 44811



Blessed Fr. Michael McGivney's Birthday

August is the month of our founder Blessed Father Michael McGivney, patron and found of the Knights of Columbus. The feast is celebrated annually on August 13th across the universal Catholic Church. Blessed Father McGivney was born on August 12, 1852 and passed away on August 14, 1890 (aged 38). His feast day is celebrated on the 13th because it falls between these two dates. Blessed Father McGivney was Beatified on October 31, 2020 at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph in Hartford, Connecticut by Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin (on behalf of Pope Francis). This Cathedral is the Diocese Seat for the Blessed Father McGivney's shrine that also was the final parish church he served at during his life as a Priest and also where he founded the Knights (Church of Saint Mary in New Haven, Connecticut). His Eminence Joseph W. Tobin was the American prelate of the Catholic Church at this time.

Our founder's beatification in 2020 and feast day on Aug. 13, are certainly causes of celebration for our Order

