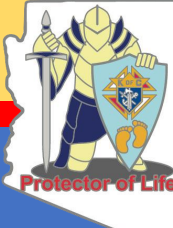




**Knights of
Columbus®**

K O C O A

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS OF ARIZONA
"Protectors of Life"



State Deputy's Message

February 2023

Brothers All,

As we start the New year, I hope many of you continue to keep your New Year's resolutions! Most people want to go on diets, drink less and sign up at a gym. As Knights, we should say an extra prayer for our country, add an extra rosary for pro-life and participate more at your Parish to help Father with his goals and attend more Council meetings to help our community with our programs, and of course recruit more men into our Order.

Leadership at all levels is the essence of the Knights of Columbus; past, present and the future. We learned the fundamentals of being a Knight from the moment we took our first degree and now with the new CUF it is even more rewarding when our family can attend. The lessons that were engrained in us throughout our career as Knights will last forever. From the outside or inside guard up to State Deputy, leadership at all levels is what makes the Knights a disciplined and successful Order. I ask all you to find those leaders and encourage them to take a position at the Council, District or State level. This is the time we look for leaders, as we read the slate of Officers. We are trying build a Hispanic leadership team to help recruit Hispanic men and train future leaders. If you know any brother knight who is bilingual in Spanish, please send their names to us.

We should be proud of what we have done in the last seven months. Team Arizona has made a mark in membership rating 25th in the order. We have established 1 new council and many round tables across Arizona. Our WSS Tom Kato and WDD Dominic Conn presented a check for an Ultrasound machine in Kingman. We are saving babies. The challenges remain and we must worker harder to grow the order in Arizona. I believe with your cooperation and drive; Arizona will once again make Circle of Honor this fraternal year.

Sonja and I appreciate all your support and prayers these last seven months and we look forward to sharing more memories, more goals, and spending fraternal time with our Knights Family.

God Bless,
Luigi Baratta



Inside this Issue

State Deputy Message	1
State Membership Director	2
Recruiter of the Month	3
Membership Promotional AD	4
State Program Director	5
State Life Director	6
State Family Director	7
Arizona District Master	9
116 th State Convention	11
Arizona State Logo	12

"But I say to you, do not swear at all ... Let your 'Yes' mean 'Yes,' and your 'No' mean 'No.' Anything more is from the evil one." (Gospel for Feb. 12, Mt 5:34a, 37)

Jesus here decries casual oaths that offend God, but all sorts of deceitful, blasphemous or obscene language is frequently heard in our society today. Taking the Lord's name in vain — or misusing our gift of speech in other ways — has become commonplace.

Showing respect for God is fundamental to the Christian life and doing so in our speech is a pivotal place to start. Let's speak plainly and keep our speech pure and true to honor God.

**Challenge by Supreme
Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori:**

This month, I challenge you to mindfully practice curbing your tongue, particularly avoiding taking the Lord's name in vain. Second, I challenge you to seek to grow in your respect for God as a Catholic man by participating in the Faith in Action Into the Breach program.

**February 2023
Pope Francis Intention
For Parishes**

We pray that parishes, placing communion at the center, may increasingly become communities of faith, fraternity and welcome towards those most in need.



K O C O A

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS OF ARIZONA



State Membership Director – Keith Baker

February 2023 Page 2

Brothers All,

As we kick off the 2nd half of the Fraternal Year, we are in a very good position to accomplish all of our goals for the 2022-2023 fraternal year. This is true for not only our AZ State Jurisdiction but should also be true for each active Council in our State.

A number of my brothers have asked me during my tenor as Grand Knight, Faithful Navigator, District Deputy, Field Agent and now Membership Director; why is membership so important to the Knights? And what I have learned over these 22 years is that the question really should be; why are Knights so important to the Church? So, you see that by building upon the membership in the Knights we are really building on the growth of our Church and the strengthening of our Brotherhood in Faith which in turn is extremely important to our Bishops and Priests. The next question we need address is the How? But we already have the tools for that to be accomplished. With the Lenten season coming closer every Council should be scheduling a Church Membership Drive with their respective Church. Make sure to have those uploaded on the State Calendar via the AZ State Website. In tandem with the Drive there should be a CUF Exemplification scheduled within days after new members have joined online. Lastly, order your Church Drive kits now (if not already) so that the materials will be shipped in plenty of time to meet the Drive scheduled date.

Worthy Grand Knights now is the time to look at where your Council is in achieving STAR and by having a good Council Programs schedule which promotes membership into the Knights you can achieve both at the same time. Add in the Fraternal Benefit seminars (2 required) and you will be on the way to STAR Council in no time.

But all the above is significantly aligned with the Councils scheduling and completing a Delta Church Drive not less than 1 per fiscal quarter and if possible one per month the rest of the Fraternal Year. If your Council has Sunday Breakfasts each month you should have no less than 5 scheduled Church Drives on the State Calendar starting in February. Our Worthy State Deputy is looking for every working Council in the state of Arizona, to recruit no less than 1 new online member and have him attend a CUF Exemplification for him to be on the Council roster before June 30, 2023.

Myself, our newly appointed Associate Membership Director WDD James Walsh, and all of State Officers are at your request for assistance in obtaining your Council Membership goals. Please let us know as soon as possible to allow us to coordinate our Calendars to meet your events.

Vivat Jesus,

Please contact the State Membership Director and Assistant if you have any questions or need assistance.

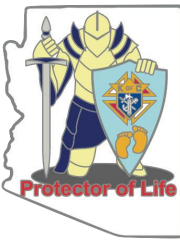
State Membership Director
Keith Baker
480-213-8333
membership@kofc-az.org

Assistant Membership Director
James Walsh
480-772-3094
jim.walsh.kofc.district8@gmail.com



KOCCOA

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS OF ARIZONA



Recruiter of the Month for December*

Gonzalo Ortiz, WDD

This past month it was again my honor to recognize an Arizona Knight who exemplifies the principles of the order and embodies the virtues of Knighthood. Sir KNIGHT Gonzalo Ortiz joined the Knight of Columbus on June 1, 1985. He retired from the State of Arizona in 2010 and also volunteered with the Society for St. Vincent de Paul for twenty years. He is going on his seventh year as a District Deputy.

He is married to his lovely wife Cecelia for 46 years and they have one daughter Stephanie. He has enjoyed his 38 years as a Knight of Columbus.

He always asks any prospective Catholic Gentlemen if they are interested in learning more about membership in our local Knights of Columbus and if they respond in the affirmative, it usually ends up in them applying for membership online.

He serves on the Southwest District membership board with the Hispanic Membership Coordinator for Arizona. The list of his volunteer activities includes many other organizations. This man truly exemplifies Knighthood and is another reason to be named as Recruiter of the Month for December 2022.

*The Recruiter of the Month will be shown as being one month behind the issuing of the State KOCCA, as results are not received from Supreme until after the 5th of the month following the recruiting activity.



KOCCOA

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS OF ARIZONA



Run these ads in your Church Bulletin

Your decision to join the Knights could define your year. Join Catholic men just like you striving to strengthen their faith, their families, and their communities as members of the Knights of Columbus.

Every Knight makes a difference. Each man brings a unique story, a particular set of skills, and a heart that is ready to serve. We invite you to take this exciting step and join us today. It's an opportunity that could define your year and change your life.

KofC.org/JoinUs

Start the new year with a resolution you are sure to keep!

Become closer to Jesus

Lose 10 pounds

Be more charitable



Paint the house



Join the Knights of Columbus!!!

Clean the garage

Help others

Arizona Knights of Columbus

www.kofc.org/join
Promo Code:
BlessedMcGivney
1 year free online membership



<http://www.kofc-az.org>
<https://www.facebook.com/azknightsofcolumbus>

Copy the link below to your browser to be able to use this ad.

<https://d6iyrqjd26xke.cloudfront.net/jan2023adv2/full.jpg>



K O C O A

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS OF ARIZONA



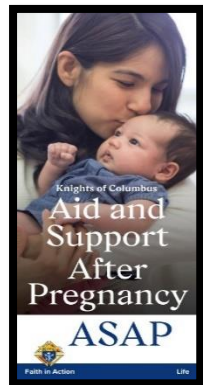
State Program Director – Rich Tracy

February 2023 Page 5

Brothers,
Please continue to keep Brother Tom White in your prayers and add him to your Council prayer lists as he continues his cancer battle:

*Almighty and Eternal God, You are the everlasting health of those who believe in You.
Hear us for Your sick servant Tom White, for whom we implore the aid of Your tender mercy,
that being restored to bodily health, he may give thanks to you in Your Church.*

Through Christ our Lord, Amen.



Aid and Support After Pregnancy (ASAP) was January’s featured program. Please consider supporting this program if you have not already done so. Supreme has distributed almost half of their \$5 million goal – and only 8.1% of Councils in the United States and Canada have participated.

Let’s bring some of those funds to Pregnancy Centers here in Arizona!

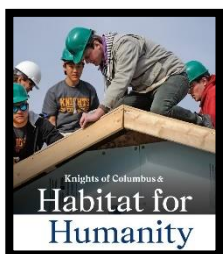
Just a reminder: For every \$500 your council or assembly donates to a pregnancy resource center or maternity home (up to \$2,000), the Supreme Council will donate \$100.

The State Free Throw Competition will be held at Notre Dame Prep on Saturday, March 25th at 1:00PM. Council competitions should be wrapping up soon and winners forwarded to your District Deputy for a District Competition. More information is available here:

<https://www.kofc.org/en/resources/faith-in-action-programs/community/free-throw-championship/10615-free-throw-guidesheet.pdf>



Please forward Entry Form/Score Sheets (#1598) to State Chairman Tom Bayham as soon as possible. A Flock Note email with specific information will be sent soon.



February’s Featured Program is Habitat for Humanity. Councils are asked to donate a minimum of \$1,000 or 200 service hours to Habitat for Humanity projects in their community. A featured program, Habitat for Humanity counts for two credits toward the Columbian Award.

For District Deputies holding their District Midyear Meetings: I have a presentation created for use at a multi-district meeting in Tucson. I am happy to forward it to you. It will require some editing to fit your district. Send me an email and I will send it to you.



Please contact the State Program Director and Assistant if you have any questions or need assistance.

State Program Director
Rich Tracy
520-904-3175
AZKofCDD6@icloud.com

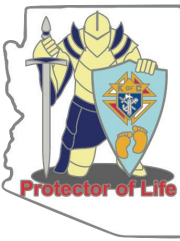
Assistant Program Director
Ben Jimenez
520-904-0524
BJDODGBlue@gmail.com

We can also be reached @ Programs@kofc-az.org



K O C O A

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS OF ARIZONA



State Life Director – Nick Gaudio

February 2023 Page 6

Brother Knights,

The biggest event coming up this month is the Arizona March For Life. This is the first in the post Roe v. Wade era. We are focusing on making a statement in support of life that will be heard loud and clear by our legislators. It will be held at the Wesley Bolin Plaza with a march around the State Capitol. Nationally known figures will be in attendance to speak at the rally. Our message of love for unborn children and their mothers will be heard by every member of the legislature as they gather that day for the legislative session.

The event is Thursday February 23, 2023, with an 11:00 AM Rally in front of the Capitol at Wesley Bolin Memorial Plaza, followed by the march at 12:00 PM.

The march is a public event that is open to all pro-life people. Coordinate with the Respect Life ministry at your church, get a bus to bring parishioners to the march. Organize you council, carry your council's banner, be visible, bring friends and family. We will have KofC signs available, but you are encouraged to make your own to spread the message. Go here for sign inspiration: <https://marchforlife.org/sign-inspiration/>.

The Knights have been asked to help with guiding and helping with the crowd. Please make yourself available to help. We will have a KofC table with signs and other literature, report there for instructions.

You can also participate in the LEAD-THE-WAY contest. This is a contest where you can buy a rose for \$20 or a dozen roses for \$100. Each rose representing a baby saved. The group with the most roses gets to lead the march and carry the banner up front. Let's mobilize all our councils to see who can win this honor! Scan this QR code or go here for more details:

<https://give.cornerstone.cc/chooselifeaz+roses>

Each year the Knights have a big presence at the life marches. Let's make this Arizona March for Life the biggest one yet.

Vivat Jesus,

Nick Gaudio
AZ State Life Director



K O C O A

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS OF ARIZONA



State Family Director – Joseph Shanks

February 2023 Page 7

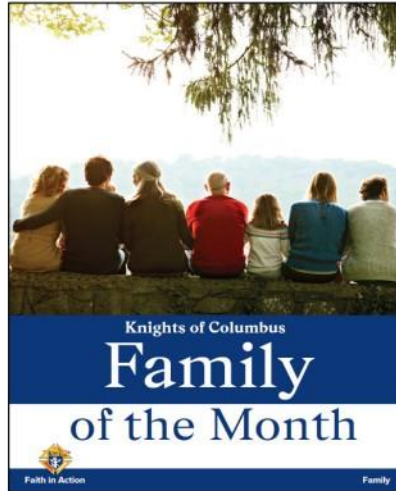
FAMILY OF THE MONTH DECEMBER 2022

This month's winner:

Jurisdiction	Council Number	Nominee Name
Arizona	4339	Nehemiah Cruz

Council Participation List

Jurisdiction	Council Number
Arizona	1229
Arizona	4339
Arizona	4584
Arizona	8077
Arizona	9485
Arizona	9801
Arizona	10441
Arizona	10762
Arizona	12708
Arizona	16277



Incomplete Submissions

Jurisdiction	Council Number	Membership #	Nominee Full Name	Address	City	State	Zip Code
Arizona	10441	3827816	LLOYD	6960 N Ozona Dr	TUCSON	AZ	85718-1231

Incomplete data is highlighted. Please reach out to your councils to correct future submissions. Thank you.



Specific Events Upcoming

February 2023

This month is traditionally dedicated to the Holy Family: Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. Consider adding the following practice this month:

Consecrate, or reconsecrate, your family to the Holy Family by praying the Consecration to the Holy Family everyday.

- February 13** – Tucson Priest Appreciation Dinner
- February 19** – Phoenix Priest Appreciation Dinner
- February 22** – Ash Wednesday – Beginning of Lent
- February 23** – Arizona March For Life
- February 27** – Yuma Religious Appreciation Dinner
- March 29** – Founders Day

Things to Accomplish

February 15 -Semi Annual Audit Due

Plan Ahead Items

- Complete your State Council Program Awards Entry Form (#STSP) and submit to your state council for award consideration
- Council Church Drive
- International Wheelchair Day
- Food for Families (Lent)
- Spiritual Reflection Program (Lent)



Do They Know

Once we gain enough experience, each of us, God willing, will have to adapt to limitations and changes as age. It's important our families know our wishes in case they are called to care for us one day. We suggest this information be shared with all family members and Knights:

- Tell family you want to remain a Knight of Columbus and that dues should continue to be paid or a donation made in your name every year.
- Make sure they know your council number and location and who/how to contact your council and assembly if you are 4th Degree.
- Keep your council and assembly informed if and when you move or need specialized care. We want to stay in touch to support and pray for you.
- Families must request our services for visitations and funerals.
- Councils regularly pray rosaries at visitations. Assemblies are authorized to conduct guards for 4th Degree Knights upon request.
- Tell your family what you would like your Knights Council to do in the event of your passing on to your reward. By completing the below form, you tell your family:
 - * Council and Assembly Contact Info
 - * Field Agent Contact Info
 - * Would you like a Rosary, Honor Guard, or both at your visitation/ funeral?
 - * Special arrangements – do you want to be buried in your old or new regalia, for example?



Arizona State Council
Funeral Pall Program




Casket and Urn Funeral Palls are available at no cost for any Knight. They are on a lend and return basis. They can be picked up and returned or shipped and return shipping. (Shipping cost not included)
For more information call:

SK Jack Ahern

MagnaliteCatholic.Com
RELIGIOUS PROMOTIONAL PRODUCTS
121 N. 57th Drive Phoenix, Arizona 85043
602-269-0009 800-634-0839



KO C O A

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS OF ARIZONA



Dear Worthy Officers, Sir Knights and Brothers All,

Happy New Year! I trust 2023 will be a blessed year for all of you. The year is off to a busy start for the Fourth Degree. It started with the unfortunate announcement of two untimely deaths, Pope Benedict the XVI and a young priest, Fr. Scott Sperry from the Diocese of Phoenix.



Pope Benedict XVI was the head of the Catholic Church and sovereign of the Vatican City State from April 19, 2005, until his resignation on February 28, 2013. My first term as State Deputy was dedicated to his First Encyclical **Deus Caritas Est**, "God Is Love". It renewed the effort of the First Principle, Charity and it caught on in the State of Arizona. During his Papal Visit to New York, it came to me for my 2nd term to use the words "Say Yes to God". In summary, the departure Pope Benedict XVI on December 31, 2022, was indeed a sad day.

Masses around the world were schedule to pray for Pope Benedict XVI; they included a mass at St. Augustine Cathedral, Celebrated by Bishop Weisenberger. At this mass, there were 15 Sir Knights as Honor Guard including 3 State Officers. Thank you Sir Knights and State Officers.





K O C O A

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS OF ARIZONA



On December 23, 2022, God called home a young vibrant priest Father Scott Sperry. Father Scott Sperry, age 37, gave in to the battle of cancer that started in his seminarian days. The pain endured by Fr. Scott did not stop him from performing masses, funerals, weddings, and baptisms. Father Scott Sperry was very supportive of the Knights of Columbus, and it was an honor to be asked to by the family to issue a special call out for his memorial vigil and Funeral. The funeral included the 3 bishops and priests from around the Diocese. Sixteen Sir Knights answered the callout request. We are all saddened to lose this young loving Priest. Father Scott Sperry may your soul rest in peace.

The Fourth Degree Exemplification held on January 14, 2023, at Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Tempe welcomed a total of 80 new Sir Knights from 21 Assemblies. In attendance were some 40 Sir Knights along with their ladies equating to a total attendee at the evening banquet of 185. Of the 80 Sir Knights, two were Priests along with a 3rd Priest, a Sir Knight, attending to support the Candidates, thank you Fr David. The class Honoree, SK Richard Araminini spoke on the importance of being involved and working as a team. Words congratulating the new Sir Knights were heard from the Supreme Director Sean Halpain, PSD and Vice Supreme Master, Christopher Foley, PSD. The Supreme Director Sean Halpain noted the importance of Sir Knights leading by example. In Eucharistic Celebrations their visibility encourages others to join the Knights of Columbus. Members of the Knights of Columbus become better Catholics through their works and prayer. Thank you to the Exemplification team who delivered a wonderful lesson on Patriotism.

The need for Pro-Life marches are still a method to spread our word that life is precious. More important than changing laws, marches start with changes in the hearts of many. The pro-life message is Love Life. We Sir Knights can help change the hearts of many by standing up for Life and for leading the way. On January 21st, the Tucson Diocese had their Pro- Life march from the St. Augustine Cathedral to Hope Cemetery. This journey of 4.2 miles was led by the Sir Knights. The attendees of the march, approximately ½ mile in length were very visible on the busy Tucson Streets. With the help of police escorts, intersections were blocked as this peaceful procession prayed and carried signs supporting life, defending life, and a clear message to Love Life. As Sir Knights, we must stand tall to support Life from Conception to natural death.

February brings another Pro-life march and a Fourth Degree Exemplification scheduled for February 25th in Tucson. The excitement is building for Sir Knights to be involved. I look forward to welcoming new Sir Knights.

GOD BLESS AMERICA!

VIVAT JESUS!

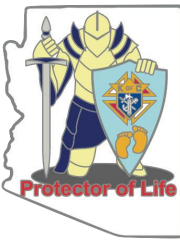
Stan Schroeder, PSD

AZ District Master



K O C O A

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS OF ARIZONA



116th Annual Knights of Columbus Arizona State Convention

February 2023 Page [11](#)

Worthy Brother Knights All,

Fr. Louis A. Sigman Council 16277 is pleased to host the 116th Annual Knights of Columbus Arizona State Convention.

This year's convention will be held May 19 and 20, 2023 at the Embassy Suites by Hilton Scottsdale resort, located at 5001 N. Scottsdale Road, Scottsdale, Arizona, 85250. The 2023 Arizona State Convention theme and logo will be from the State Deputy's State Pin, "Protector of Life".

Hotel reservations can only be made directly with the hotel, either online or by phone. Refer to the Hotel Reservations page for details. Room rates are guaranteed through April 28, 2023, at 5:00 PM and are applicable three days before and three days after the convention based on availability. Reservations made after this date will be accepted on a space-available basis at a non-discounted rate. Breakfast is included with your hotel reservation at no extra charge.

Hospitality Suites are available but limited; these suites may not be booked directly through the hotel. To reserve hospitality suites, contact Larry Becker at 480-760-5122 or az23kconvention@gmail.com for assistance.

Registration for the convention is required for all who attend (**YOU MUST BE A 3RD DEGREE KNIGHT TO ATTEND ANY PORTION OF THE CONVENTION**). In addition, if you are attending the convention as a Delegate or Alternate, your Council must submit the names through an online form by April 2, 2023. The link to the form will be provided in a separate email to Grand Knights and Financial Secretaries.

IMPORTANT NOTE FOR DELEGATES: If you are a Delegate or Alternate you still MUST register for the Convention in addition to submitting the Delegate form from your Council. Your Council DOES NOT register for you!

The preferred method to register for the Convention is through the State Convention section of the State Council's website, where you may pay by credit or debit card online. <https://kofc-az.org/state-convention> If you desire to use this method, please proceed to the website for more instructions, or by mailing in a check.

If registering by mail, refer to the registration page. Fill out the registration form and send the form, along with a check (payable to: Fr. Louis A. Sigman Council 16277, Attention: 2023 State Convention) to:

K of C 2023 Convention
ATTN: Chris Wrobel
3091 S Valerie Drive
Chandler, AZ 85286-0310

All registrations and payments must be received by Friday, April 28, 2023. Registrations received later than this date will be assessed an additional \$10.00 fee for late processing. Late registrations place an additional burden on the host Council and the hotel to ensure that there are sufficient seating and meals for all in attendance. Credit card payments must be made directly on the website.



K O C O A

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS OF ARIZONA



116th Annual Knights of Columbus Arizona State Convention

February 2023 Page [12](#)

On Friday, all Bishops, Priests, Council Chaplains and Assembly Friars are invited to take part in the Opening Mass of the convention. Councils and Assemblies are urged to invite your Council Chaplains, Assembly Friars and Parish Priests to attend these events. Councils and Assemblies should reimburse / pay for any expenses incurred by travel, meals and lodging.

Immediately following Friday's State Program Award Dinner there will be "Rat Pack" music under the stars in the Patio Garden area. The attire for both the dinner and dancing is "Rat Pack" attire (50's – 60's Las Vegas Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Sammy Davis Jr. style attire) or Business Casual.

Saturday's "Faith to Foster" Ladies Luncheon will begin at 11:30AM. We are excited about our guest speakers Wendy Esquibel founder of Jose's Closet and Veronica Lopez from Catholic Charities Foster Care Program. In addition, Kate Hursh from Saint Juan Diego and one of her adopted children will share their experience of Foster Care. We are here to acknowledge Foster Families and children, it is important for these families and children to know that are seen, heard, and loved: this is of utmost importance. There will be opportunity to donate items to the chosen charities. In addition, gift baskets will be part of this year's raffle. Proceeds from the raffle will be donated to Jose's Closet and Catholic Charities Foster Care program.

Advertising in the Convention Program is a great way to support convention activities, show support for our State Officers and show solidarity for our Chaplains, Friars, and Priests. We ask all Councils and Assemblies to place an advertisement in the program. Advertising must be submitted no later than Friday April 21, 2023. Please use the "Buy Advertising" section at <https://kofc-az.org/state-convention>.

Vendor Tables: If you are interested in participating as a vendor for the convention, send an email to: az23kcconvention@gmail.com. As a charity or organization promoting your program, consider hosting a table. There is limited space available, so book early!

If you have any questions regarding the convention registration or website, please contact: If you have any questions regarding the convention registration or website, please contact: az23kcconvention@gmail.com.

We look forward to seeing you in May!

Fraternally Yours,
Larry Becker, PSD
Convention Chairman
Chris Wrobel
Convention Vice-Chairman & Registration Chairman



ARIZONA STATE COUNCIL
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
Contact Information Arizona State Council



Website: www.KofC-AZ.org

State Deputy

Luigi Baratta

Email: so.baratta@yahoo.com

Phone: 602-326-8511

Immediate Past State Deputy

Mario Vassallo

Email: vassallo.mario@gmail.com

Phone: 520 481 1250

State Secretary

Tom Kato

Email: tom.kato.azkofc@gmail.com

Phone: 480-907-4581

General Agent

Nate Raso, FICF

Email: nate.raso@kofc.org

Phone: 480 422 8452

State Treasurer

Kevin McCarthy

Email: kmccarthy.kofc@gmail.com

Phone: 602 684 8125

State Membership Director

Keith Baker

Email: Membership@kofc-az.org

Phone: 480 213 8333

State Advocate

Larry Powers

Email: larry.powers.azkofc@gmail.com

Phone: 702 827 8135

State Program Director

Richard Tracy

Email: Programs@kofc-az.org

Phone: 520 297 1248

State Warden

Bobby Nielsen

Email: bnielsen200@gmail.com

Phone: 520 349 0728

**Executive Secretary of the State
Deputy**

Rick Garrison

Email: KofCRick@Q.com

Phone: 480 522 7064

Hispanic Membership Coordinator

Luis Leyva

Email: leyva.azkofcd2@gmail.com

Phone: 520 313 0141

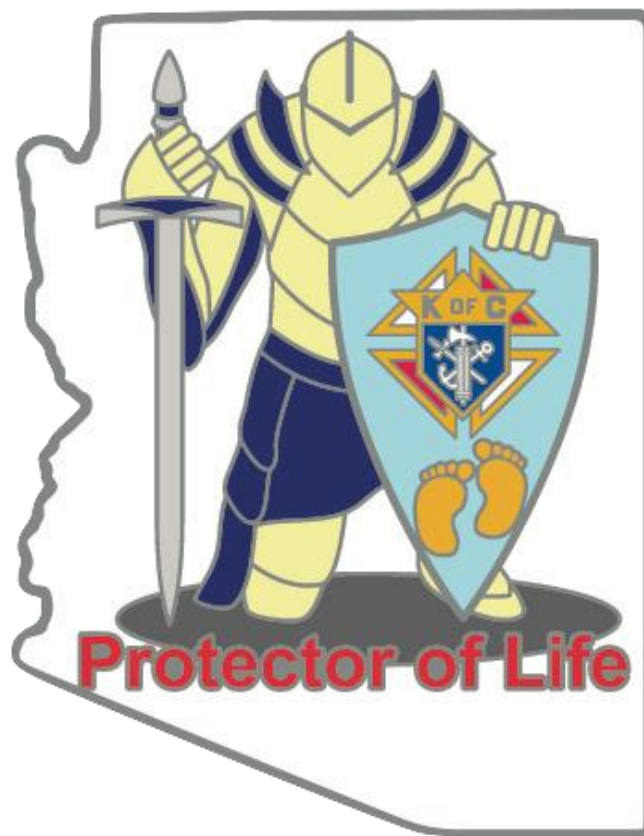
**Executive Secretary to the State
Council**

Larry Becker

Email: ses@kofc-az.org

Phone: 480 760 5122

ARIZONA STATE LOGO 2022-2023



The Arizona Knights of Columbus announced a renewed vigor for defending life at this year's organization meeting.

In honor of the Supreme Court's overturning of Roe vs. Wade and the Knights of Columbus' firm stand for the protection and support of all life from conception to natural death, State Deputy Luigi Baratta announced the creation of a new pin which represents Knights kneeling in prayer. The knight's sword represents the rosary, his shield represents Knights in unity, the baby's feet on the shield represents life, and the white background represents the innocents which Knights will always defend.

"Last year, our state theme was Defender of the Faith," he explained. "This year it is Protector of Life. As Catholics, we must remain steadfast and do all we can to protect life from conception through natural death. We need to encourage men to join us to step into the breach, pray vigilantly, and assist our efforts to help serve our parishes and communities across the great state of Arizona."

In addition to their continued fundraising efforts to help purchase ultrasound machines, the Knights of Columbus have launched a new initiative called the Aid and Support After Pregnancy (ASAP). This new initiative significantly enhances the Knights' support for mothers and children and is "a call to action for Knights across the United States and Canada to increase financial support to pregnancy resource centers, maternity homes and other organizations which give direct assistance to new mothers and/or babies."