



**Knights of
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Arizona
State Council



K O C O A

Knights of Columbus of Arizona

June Newsletter 2025-2026

Dear Brother Knights,

Organizational Meeting Rescheduled

I have some news concerning the upcoming Organizational Meeting. Our original host council had to step away and so the meeting needed to be rescheduled. We are lucky to now be hosted by our brothers in Pope Pius XII Council #4737 at St. John Vianney Parish in Goodyear where Father David Halm, our State Chaplain is Pastor. **The meeting will now be held on the weekend of July 24-26 with council leadership invited on Saturday July 25** during which there will be Grand Knight and Financial Secretary training. Look for the online registration and hotel info coming out soon.

Forms and the State Directory

We will build the state Directory from the data you submit on your Supreme forms, so you won't have to fill out a state directory online form too. Please file your council and assembly forms promptly as you complete your elections and appointments so that we can generate the state directory.

New State Membership Director!

I am pleased to announce the appointment of our new State Membership Director for the 2026-2027 Fraternal Year. Ken Gallagher has agreed to accept this challenging role. Ken has a long history of contributions at the Council, District, Chapter, and State levels, most recently serving as State Executive Secretary. We welcome Ken to this new role, and we all look forward to working with him to continue our tradition of strong membership growth in Arizona.

This edition of the KOCO A will contain the last membership article by Worthy State Warden and Membership Director Dan Kudulis. Thanks, brother Dan!

State Deputy



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State Deputy

Bishop Peter Dai Bui

We were honored to have the Most Reverend Peter Dai Bui, Auxilliary bishop of Phoenix as main Celebrant of our convention Opening Mass on the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker. He gave us a wonderful homily and has allowed us to publish the text in this newsletter. Thank you, Your Excellency!

Articles in This Newsletter

In addition to Bishop Bui’s homily and a message from our State Membership Director Dan, we’ll also hear from our Worthy Regional Growth Director Chuck Davlin, Worthy State Program Director Ben Jimenez, Worthy Director of Evangelization and Faith formation Deacon Bruce Bennett, and some great words from our Father McGivney Guild Chairman, Worthy DD Mike Cruz. Thanks, Brothers.

Remembering the State Convention

Last month we celebrated a year of Fellowship, Faith and Service at our 119th Annual State Convention in Tucson. By all measures, the 2025-2026 Fraternal Year has been a great success, and we’re not done yet! I want to express my sincere gratitude to all our District Deputies, program chairs, and state officers for their efforts throughout the fraternal year.

I appreciate every council in Arizona for carrying on Blessed Fr. McGivney’s vision—helping men grow closer to Jesus, caring for the needy, and supporting your pastors and parishes through your programs and activities.

This Fraternal Year we have approached every challenge and opportunity with gratitude and joy. Our successes are a testament to the dedication and faithfulness of our members. As we look ahead, let us continue to serve with open hands and joyful hearts, united in love and confident that our efforts make a lasting difference in the lives of those we serve “With Rejoicing Hearts”!

Vivat Jesus!

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families, safety — and followed him for three years. They have given him everything.

And now he is telling them he is leaving.

The fear in the room is not dramatic. It is **the quiet, heavy fear** of men who have been faithful and are now watching everything they gave themselves to seem to dissolve. And **Thomas** — honest, exhausted Thomas — says what every man in that room is thinking:

"Master, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?"

This is not a man asking for directions. This is a man who has been faithful — and is now wondering what faithfulness was worth.

Jesus does not give Thomas a map. He gives him something harder to argue with and impossible to take away:

"I am the way, the truth, and the life."

The way is not a road Jesus knows — **it is what Jesus is.** The way is found not by figuring out better strategies or measuring better outcomes, but **by keeping your eyes on Christ, and staying close to him.**

Paul understood what Thomas could not yet grasp in that upper room. Standing in the synagogue at Antioch, years after the resurrection, Paul looks back **across generations of faithful men and women** who gave without seeing the fruit, who prayed without seeing the answer, who died without seeing the promise kept — and what he announces is staggering: ***"What God promised our fathers, he has brought to fulfillment for us, their children, in raising up Jesus."***

None of their faith and sacrifice is dissolved, not one prayer, not one hour given in the dark. Every act of faithfulness counted — **because the God who made the promise is the God who kept it.**

There was a man who received his entire mission from God, worked in complete silence, and never saw a single confirmation that any of it had mattered.



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The Gospel calls him a just man — ***vir justus*** — Joseph of Nazareth, a carpenter from Galilee, the foster father of the Son of God. And in the entire Gospel, across Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John — **not one word he ever spoke was considered worth recording**; not even one sentence or one prayer spoken aloud. The man on whom the salvation of the world quietly depended said nothing that anyone thought to write down.

St. John Paul II said that **Joseph's silence reveals more than any words could**. He called it ***eloquent***. Because what the silence shows is a man whose life was entirely action — who did not talk about what he was doing, but simply did it, and trusted the One who had asked him to.

Every directive Joseph ever received from God came in a dream. There was no burning bush, no voice from heaven, not even a vision in broad daylight he could point to and say: *God spoke to me, and I can prove it*. The dream was gone by morning — impossible to verify, impossible even to be fully certain of yourself. ***Take Mary as your wife... Flee to Egypt... — and when the time comes, return***. Each time it was the same: a whisper in the night, and then Joseph rising before dawn and doing what the whisper asked. Joseph gave no explanation to anyone and left no record of what it cost him, received no encouragement that he was doing the right thing. There was only the dream, and then the obedience, and then the dark.

He never saw the public ministry of Jesus. He was almost certainly dead before Jesus preached a single sermon. He raised the Son of God in a carpenter's shop in Nazareth — formed him in his trade, protected him in his childhood, gave him his lineage and his human home — **and then Joseph was gone**.

He did his entire work in the dark.

And everything the Church has proclaimed for two thousand years rests on what that one man did quietly, faithfully, invisibly — on the strength of a dream.

The Gospel cannot be told without him. And he never knew he had done it.

143 years ago, **Father Michael McGivney** sat with his parishioners in New Haven, Connecticut — immigrant men, most of them, whose families had



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nothing if they died. He did not found this Order with a grand vision and a strategic plan. He founded it in a church basement, with a handful of men who had very little and were willing to give what they had. He could not have known what that act of faithfulness would become.

You, Brother Knights, are what it became.

You have taken your degrees, made your promises, and shown up year after year for work that is mostly unseen and almost never thanked. The question this Mass is pressing on every man in this room is not what you still have to accomplish.

It is this: ***Do you know who you are following?***

Because **what every man here is really longing for** — underneath the pancake breakfasts, the collection canisters, the color corps Masses, the food drives, the folding tables set up and broken down a hundred times — is **the certainty** that what he has given has not been lost, that the hours in the dark have been seen, that the road is going somewhere, and **that it has all been worth it.**

That certainty is not found by seeing more fruit. It is found **by fixing your eyes on the One who is the Way** — and trusting that a man who stays close to Christ is never walking in the wrong direction.

Dear Brother Knights, go home from this convention and do what Joseph did — not with a new strategy or a resolution you will have forgotten by Tuesday. **Go home and keep your eyes on Christ** — in the rosary, in the Mass, in the brother Knight who is struggling and hasn't said so, in every ordinary act of service that no one will ever see. ***Do it for him, with him, toward him. The fruit is his to give — your part is to stay close.***

The craftsmen who carved the unseen stone did not carve it for the crowd. They carved it **for the One whose gaze reaches every corner of every cathedral.** Brother Knights, every act of your faithful service, every hour given in his name, seen and unseen, remembered and forgotten, from the founding of this Order to this morning.

The Risen Lord sees it. He has always seen it.



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In a few moments, the Bread of Life, that is, the Way, the Truth and the Life, will be raised for all to see.

The Way is real. And the way is him.

And **he gives himself to you now** — because of who he is, and because of who you are in him.



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Regional Growth Director

Greeting Brothers,

As we come to the end of the Fraternal Year, let me congratulate you on a really good year. We have recorded many outstanding Councils, terrific Districts which are the only way we have a successful State. Saying this, the year is not done yet and there is still much to do. We need to finish up those last minute tasks, completing or renewing Safe Environment, submitting your Columbian Award application Form SP-7, getting in the last recorded FBE or those last few members need to meet our FBE attendance requirement. With this, we can finish out the year strongly and create a legacy to look back on with pride.

One note of caution as we finish up the last few weeks of the Fraternal Year: It is easier to keep the momentum going than to get it going again. Each Fraternal Year is a part of a continuing process of growth and progress. So many of our Councils stop all activity with the start of summer for various “reasons” – Everyone is on vacation, everyone is farming, everyone is . . . The reality of the situation is there are still hungry who need fed in the summer, thirsty who need drink in the summer, sick or imprisoned who need consoled in the summer and men and their family who are still looking for a way to put their Faith Into Action in the summer. We really can’t shut down our Programs, pause our COR and or faith formation activities or fail to **invite** new Parishioners, new Catholics, newly-turned 18-year-olds, new empty nesters or newly retired men to join us in our important work because when we do, it takes so much effort and coordination to get them started again in the Fall or when “everyone” finally gets back from vacation. I would encourage you to keep your programs going, keep building your faith and keep inviting new men to join us in our work today, this week and all summer long.

Thank you each and all for all you have done and will do this summer.

Fraternally,

Vivat Jesus,

Chuck Davlin

Regional Growth Director

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State Warden / Membership Director

Final Push for McGivney Award & Star Council

Worthies and Brothers All,

On behalf of the State Officers, as well as the State Membership Team, we want to thank you all for your tremendous efforts this year to invite men into the Order. With only a month left in the Fraternal Year, we want to focus on getting every council to their goal so they can be recognized as Star/Double Star/Triple Star Council, etc.

To date, we already have 70 councils that have met or exceeded their Supreme Membership Goal!! That is over half of the active councils we have in Arizona. AMAZING!!

Additionally, we have 15 councils that are only 1 or 2 new members away from reaching their goal. With just a bit of effort we can get these councils over the finish line as well!

With 68 councils still short of their Supreme goal, we have some work left to do before the end of the Fraternal Year. Of those 68 councils, only 5 have scheduled a Church Drive before the end of the year. The Church Drive Calendar for the State of Arizona shows only one drive scheduled for after June 1st, and that council has already reached their goal.

For any councils that need to reach their goal (or stretch for another Star!), here are some suggestions to help you achieve success:

- 1) Host a Church Drive between now and June 21st. Put it on the State Calendar.
- 2) Host a C-U-F Ceremony soon after your Church Drive, or as soon as possible if you have men on your Prospect Tab. Put it on the State Calendar. Call, text, and email EVERY Prospect on your list and invite them (and their families) to attend.
- 3) Using Officers Online, transfer your Prospects into your council the same day you hold the C-U-F Ceremony (but no later than June 25th).



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State Warden / Membership Director

- 4) Avoid using paper Form 100's!! Enter new candidates using the E-Membership web site. Using paper Form 100's will delay these men being assigned to your council, and you may miss out on hitting your goals due to a paperwork backlog!!!

Remember, the Fraternal Year ends on Tuesday, June 30th. Supreme is on Eastern time. It is not a guarantee that any men processed the last weekend of the month will be added to your roster by the close of business on June 30th. Please be proactive and get everyone processed by June 25th to allow Supreme enough time!!!!

The State Team is here to help you with your last-minute Church Drives and C-U-F Ceremonies. Please let us know how we can help all your councils shine like STARS!!!!

Finally, as our WSD Kevin McCarthy has stated in his letter, Ken Gallagher has been appointed AZ State Membership Director for the upcoming 2026-2027 Fraternal Year. Ken is excited to work closely with councils around the state and is eager to assist you meet and exceed your goal for the coming year. Ken and I will be working closely together through the month of June so that there is a seamless transition on July 1st. Ken is an amazing Brother Knight and will serve the State of Arizona well in his new role.

It has been my honor and privilege to serve the AZ Knights of Columbus as State Membership Director for the past two years. I have witnessed firsthand the commitment of councils across this great state to not only grow our Order, but to help each other grow in our faith and serve our Parishes and communities through our charitable works. I thank each and every one of you for your support in our efforts to continue to grow the Knights of Columbus in Arizona.

On behalf of the entire State Membership Team, thank you for your amazing efforts to invite every eligible Catholic man to join the Order.

Keep up the great work!!!

Vivat Jesus! ¡Viva Cristo Rey!

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Hello Brother Knights,

Thank you to all of you who contributed to the success stories at the State Convention. Your success this year with all your efforts with our Faith in Action Programs has been exemplary. Many councils are participating in our new programs and consistently focusing on achieving your goals to reach Star Council. Congratulations to all of you.

Now that we are approaching the month of June, let's cross the finish line and reach our goals. Here are some Program reminders that Supreme sent out for the Month.

Reminder: America 250

American Knights are invited to celebrate the United States' 250th anniversary this year with devotion, prayer and service. Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly is encouraging councils to help answer the U.S. bishops' call for parishes and individuals to complete **250 Hours of Adoration and 250 Works of Mercy**.

Support your diocese's efforts by offering your state's Pilgrim Icon for use during its consecration and America 250 events.

Share this [page](http://kofc.org/america250) (kofc.org/america250) or this [resource](#) with councils to get involved.

Home Enthronement of the Sacred Heart

Knights and their families are invited to dedicate themselves, their homes and their councils to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Kits with everything needed for the enthronement are available at shopcatholicinfo.com and on Supplies Online.

¡Viva Cristo Rey!

August 1 is the 100-year anniversary of the Cristero War – encourage councils to pray a Novena or attend Mass to celebrate. Resources can be found at KofC.org.



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State Program Director

RSVP Forms Due

June 30 is the deadline for councils to submit the RSVP refund application for donations made to seminarians and postulants during the past fraternal year. For every \$500 donated, \$100 will be refunded by Supreme to the council. You can find the form at KofC.org.

Reminder: Coats for Kids

As we prepare for the 2026-27 fraternal year, we are implementing an initial cap on the number of Buy-One-Get-One (BOGO) cases each state may receive. This adjustment will help us manage inventory more effectively and ensure equitable distribution across all jurisdictions. The number of cases was emailed to the state program directors, state Coats for Kids chairmen, state community directors and state deputies in all participating jurisdictions.

Each jurisdiction must submit its BOGO proposal to the Supreme Office (jason.porello@kofc.org) by **September 1** to claim its cases. Proposals received after this date may not be eligible to participate in the BOGO incentive. *Unclaimed BOGO cases will be advertised for other jurisdictions to claim after that date.* All BOGO resources are found in the Coats for Kids section at KofC.org.

ASAP

Applications for the ASAP program are due on June 30th for the current fraternal year. Councils should submit their [forms](#) as soon as possible to beat the end-of-the-year rush. Fraternal Operations continue to reach out to Join ASAP Incentive winners to encourage them to claim their additional \$250 by the end of the fraternal year. Thus far, over 200 councils have earned \$50,000 for pregnancy resource centers and maternity homes through the incentive.

CONGRATULATIONS – April Program Incentive Winner



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Council 6933, St. O’delia, Tucson, is the winner of a \$150 Global Wheelchair donation. They, along with six other councils, submitted 10784s for the Good Friday Family Promotion. 6933 promoted this program by pulpit announcements at mass, parish bulletins, social media and the state website. They also placed posters in the church hall and offices. During the Lenten season, the council assisted with Lenten meals, Stations of the Cross and the Good Friday Veneration of the Cross service.

The **May** featured program is Celebrating Our Catholic Heritage, May Crowning and Adoration. The incentive winner will receive a \$200 RSVP donation.

As reported at the State Convention, form 10784 has become the norm for reporting program activity. Please continue to send them in. They are important to track your progress and assist you when it’s time to complete your SP-7’s. and 10784 - [Form Invitation](#)

CONGRATULATIONS – April 2026 Family of the Month Winner!

The Ray Schetzler Family, St. Patrick, Scottsdale, Council #12449.

Vivat Jesus!

¡Viva Cristo Rey!

Benjamin Jimenez
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Evangelization and Faith Formation/ Cor

Brothers All,

I am pleased to report that our jurisdiction currently ranks 20th out of 83 jurisdictions in Cor participation and development. This is an encouraging accomplishment, but with the help of every Grand Knight and every Evangelization and Faith Formation (EFF) Director, we can continue to grow and improve.

Cor is more than a program—it is an invitation for Catholic men to better understand and embrace their call to holiness and their vocation as fathers, husbands, and disciples of Christ. Through Cor, men are given the opportunity to center their hearts on Jesus Christ and be transformed through an authentic relationship with Him. Cor also strengthens the bonds of brotherhood and fraternity that unite us as Knights and Catholic men.

As Knights of Columbus, we are called to a Christ-centered brotherhood—a bond formed through Baptism that unites us as adopted sons of God and brothers with Jesus Christ. As brothers in Christ, we are called to grow in our relationship with Him, sharpen one another in virtue, and support each other in living out our Catholic faith. Together, we strive to live lives worthy of our calling, becoming the men God created us to be and walking side by side toward heaven.

To continue building momentum, I ask every Grand Knight who has not already done so to appoint an Evangelization and Faith Formation Director for your council and notify me of that appointment. By working together with your EFF Director, we can build and strengthen Cor at your parish and provide more men with opportunities for authentic faith formation and fraternity.

In addition, we are expanding the leadership structure of our State Cor initiative through the creation of a Diocesan EFF Coordinator role. These coordinators will assist the State Director with training, support, and implementation efforts within each diocese, helping us bring Cor to even more councils and parishes.



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Evangelization and Faith Formation/ Cor

For those EFF Directors already serving who feel called to take on a greater role in this important mission, I encourage you to contact Dcn. Bruce for more information about serving as a Diocesan EFF Coordinator.

Together, we can continue building strong Catholic men, strong families, and strong parishes through Cor.

Vivat Jesus!

Dcn. Bruce Bennett, EdD

AZ State Director of Evangelization and Faith Formation

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Fr. Arthur Nave Jr.

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Father McGivney Guild Chairman

Brother Knights,

Vivat Jesus! I was recently reminded by our Worthy State Deputy that we have a State Blessed McGivney Chairman — and that chairman is me. I'm excited to take on this role and help promote the canonization of our founder, Blessed Father Michael J. McGivney, throughout Arizona. My hope is not only to support his cause, but also to help all of us learn more about how he lived and why he continues to inspire our Order. Yes, I encourage you and your family members to join the Blessed Michael McGivney Guild. Family members *can* join, not just Knights. First, it is baseball season, let's talk baseball.

Many of us know Father McGivney as a parish priest who understood people, built community, and brought men together around faith and fraternity. What surprises many is that he was also a pretty good ball player in his younger days. He played with real enthusiasm and encouraged the youth of his parish to enjoy the game as a way to build community and stay connected to the Church.

That love of the game carried into the early days of the Knights of Columbus. Baseball became a way for Catholic families, especially immigrants, to find belonging, confidence, and community. It's a part of our history worth remembering and sharing.

Today, more people are talking about Father McGivney as a natural fit to become the Patron Saint of Baseball once he is canonized. It's a devotion that feels joyful, authentic, and very much in line with who he was.

I encourage councils across the state to help keep this story alive:

- Share McGivney's baseball connection with your parish families
- Pray for his canonization and ask his intercession for athletes and coaches, and if your team isn't doing well, maybe ask Fr. McGivney for help... unless your team is the Yankees.
- Highlight his story during baseball season or at youth events
- Look for simple ways to connect faith, family, and sportsmanship



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Father McGivney Guild Chairman

- Join the Blessed McGivney Guild at fathermcgivney.org/join-the-guild/

These small efforts help people, especially young families, see that holiness isn't distant. It can look like a parish priest cheering on a local team or a founder who understood the value of recreation, teamwork, and joy.

Blessed Michael McGivney continues to inspire our Order in so many ways. Supporting this devotion is one more way we can honor his legacy and share his story with a world that still needs his example.

You can learn more about our founder — and join the Guild — at fathermcgivney.org

With Rejoicing hearts,

Michael Cruz

Michael Cruz

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Send a copy of all forms to kofcrick.garrison@gmail.com
DD's - Send expense reports to the State Deputy



With Rejoicing Hearts – The Design

The Arizona Knights of Columbus State Pin has a copper background reminding us of the rich natural resources of our State.

The imagery on the pin

- Raised hands in rejoicing
- Our hearts
- The Knights of Columbus emblem
- The dove representing the Holy Spirit
- Baby footprints symbolizing the Right to Life

serves as a visual testament to our mission.

It reminds us that we are called to serve, uplift, and walk in faith, defending the dignity of life from conception to natural death and bringing Christ’s kingdom to light. **We serve With Rejoicing Hearts!**



The Complete Knight Flywheel

From a mechanical side, the flywheel is a very heavy wheel that is used to generate and transfer energy to other parts of a machine. Once it starts spinning, it's hard to stop.

God is the center of all that he does, his **family** comes second, and self, third.

A successful knight does each of the activities to keep that flywheel going: He Invites men into the Order and then Engages, Motivates, Evangelizes and Retains. The areas of focus for each of those activities are around Membership, Programs, EFF/Cor, and Fraternal Benefits.

