



**Knights of
Columbus®**
Arizona
State Council



K O C O A

Knights of Columbus of Arizona

September Newsletter 2026-2027

State Deputy

Brothers All,

August was another successful month growing the Order in Arizona. In particular, I want to congratulate St. Thomas Aquinas Council 8090 at the Arizona State University Newman Center And District Deputy Tom Clark. Our college council brothers conducted membership drives on two consecutive weekends in August and a C.U.F. Degree the following Monday. Council 8090 has already reached 340% of their membership goal and is the first council in Arizona to reach their goal this Fraternal Year! Great work Brothers!

First this month is a message from our State Chaplain, Father David, commenting on the life and upcoming beatification of the Venerable Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen.

Our Worthy State Membership director Ken Gallagher follows with a brief message on membership. Let's keep the momentum going, get membership drives scheduled and on the state calendar and get your online members to a C-U-F Degree!

Following Ken, we have an update from our State Program Director, Ben Jimenez.

Following Programs, we have an important reminder about Safe Environment compliance from Worthy State Advocate Rich Tracy. I expect the remaining active councils to be compliant by October. Please work hard to get this important obligation completed as soon as possible. Thank you.

Next, we'll hear from our Worthy State Advocate Dan Kudulis on the importance of conducting live C. U. F. Degrees.

We'll then have a message from State Director of Evangelization and Faith Formation Deacon Bruce Bennett.

We'll wrap up with a note from Arizona Rosary Celebration Chairman Greg Mattingly.



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HELP WANTED!

Brothers, as we welcome Ken Gallagher in his new role as State Membership Director, a key role on the State Council team has opened. We are still looking for a brother Knight to step up to serve as **State Executive Secretary**. This role has several key responsibilities, including assisting the State Secretary and Treasurer in distributing Per Capita statements, recording the minutes of state meetings, collecting the annual reports of officers, chairmen and DDs and preparing the Proceedings for the Annual Convention. The State Deputy may request assistance with other similar activities throughout the year as needed. Ken will be happy to help you get started. Skill on the PC is important for this role. The State Executive Secretary attends the Organizational and Midyear Meetings and the State Convention, and all expenses are paid by the State Council. If you are interested, please contact me. It's a fun and important job!

Thank you, my Brothers for all you do in Arizona as *Together, We Serve United in Love!*

Vivat Jesus!

Kevin McCarthy

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State Deputy



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State Chaplain

Brothers All,

This month the next Knight of Columbus to be “raised to the altars”, Archbishop Fulton Sheen, will be beatified in a special Mass in St. Louis, Missouri. Cardinal Tagle will preside at the Mass in the name of Pope Leo XIV and many around the world will be watching. Archbishop Sheen was known to millions of Americans - and indeed Catholics globally - in the 20th century for his grace, ability to teach deep theology in an approachable way, clarity and holiness. His TV show, Life Is Worth Living, was a huge hit and many episodes are available for free now on YouTube. Take a look!

Soon-to-be Blessed Fulton Sheen was also a Fourth Degree Knight and dedicated to all the principles of our Order. He took quite seriously the patriotic nature of that degree in his strident anti-communism, in many ways prefiguring the message that other great Saint of the 20th century, Pope John Paul II, boldly proclaimed: Communism is not merely an economic or political system, but a total philosophy of life and a pseudo-religion that seeks to control the inner man.

For Sheen there was no way to ally or compromise with communism as Catholics. We who follow Jesus Christ must do so with all our hearts, minds and strength. However, the communists necessarily require one to place the Party and State (in the name of “the people”) above Christ - or at least on equal terms. Many in the world today seduce the young with the various false promises of Karl Mark and communism. Millions, of course, continue to suffer under its yolk.

As Knights of Columbus, we will always follow Christ, in the Catholic Church, as He called us to: in Charity, Unity and Fraternity, with holy Patriotism. May Archbishop (and Sir Knight) Fulton J. Sheen pray for us!

Vivat Jesus!

¡Viva Cristo Rey!

Fr. David Halm, C.S.C.



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State Membership Director

Brother Knights,

August was another strong month for membership in Arizona. We welcomed 99 new members, making it the second-highest membership month for August in Arizona history. Thank you for the hard work that made this possible.

Now we need a major push in September. Reaching our membership goal this month will help reduce our year-end quota and keep Arizona moving toward Circle of Honor.

Please also make full use of your Online Council Prospect List. When men join the Order online, they identify their parish and the council they are interested in joining. There are currently 365 online members assigned to the State Council, many of whom are ready to become active members of a local council.

Twenty-six councils have five or more prospects available to add to their roster, and eight councils have ten or more. Reaching out to these men, inviting them to a council meeting, and scheduling them for a CUF Degree can make a meaningful difference in meeting your council's Star Council membership goal.

Grand Knights and Financial Secretaries: after a member attends a CUF Degree, please remember to transfer him into your council through Member Management. If a prospect does not wish to join your council, please reject the prospect so he can be removed from your list.

Culture of Invitation church-drive kits are now shipping. If your council needs a kit before an upcoming scheduled drive, please contact me and I will make arrangements to get one to you.

Finally, please continue using the [Arizona State Council Events Calendar](#) to enter your membership drives and ceremonies. Keeping the calendar current gives the membership team, state officers, and field agents visibility and an opportunity to support your efforts.



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Let's keep the momentum going. A personal invitation may be all it takes to welcome another Catholic gentleman into our Order.

Vivat Jesus! Viva Cristo Rey!

Ken Gallagher

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State Membership Director



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State Program Director

Brothers All,

Thank you to all who submitted proposals for the **Coats for Kids BOGO (Buy One Get One)**. We received an overwhelming response this year, with **12 councils** submitting proposals for the **25 cases** allotted by Supreme. To ensure fairness for all, two councils that requested more than ten cases will need to submit a later request for additional coats at full price.

The lower-income and economically challenged communities that will benefit from this year's coats are truly special, and your generosity will make a meaningful impact. If Supreme has any unclaimed state allotted cases available, as happened last year, I will notify you immediately.

Once the coats are delivered, I will contact each council for pick-up arrangements. The State Council will bill your council later for your half of the cost. As you distribute the coats, please remember to take photographs to memorialize the event and highlight the good work being done.

Thank you to all the District Deputies who invited me to attend their **District Organizational Meetings**. I was able to attend six meetings this past month, two of which were combined multi-district gatherings. It was encouraging to see such strong engagement and collaboration across districts.

The most notable change this year is the updated **Columbian Award (SP-7)**. This new form will enable every council to easily obtain the Columbian Award. Supreme has significantly simplified the process, and there are now only **three requirements** to complete the form.

- **Requirement 1** is a \$500 donation to ASAP, Food For Families, RSVP, or Coats for Kids. (Item value or pounds of food may apply.)
- **Requirement 2** is Complete 4 additional faith in action programs.
- **Requirement 3** is complete 3 programs / activities: one to bring men closer to Christ, one to build fraternity (strengthen the bonds of friendship between the men of your council and/or parish) and one to support your parish or community. These programs / activities can be unique to the council and do not need to be Faith in Action programs.



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State Program Director

Conducting Cor satisfies all three of the program/activity criteria for requirement 3. The new form will be available in January 2027, so continue to document your activity with the 10784.

This does *not* mean councils should stop participating in our **Faith in Action programs** once the new requirements are met. Continue doing what has been successful for your councils and consider trying some of the newer programs introduced last year. For example, two councils since June have participated in the **Quinceañera Support** program. Young ladies connected to Knights celebrated their Quinceañeras, and brother Knights assisted with both the Mass and reception celebrations.

As a reminder, there are no “featured programs” for this fraternal year. Please continue submitting your Form 10784. All submissions will be placed into the drawing, and cash prizes will be awarded to the winners, who may designate a charity of their choosing. I will announce the August drawing winner next month.

10784 - [Form Invitation](#)

Vivat Jesus!

¡Viva Cristo Rey!

Benjamin Jimenez

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“Protecting children and the vulnerable is part of our founding mission.”

– Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly

Brothers,

Let’s talk Safe Environment. As of September 4th, only 32% of Councils in Arizona meet KofC Safe Environment requirements

43 Councils, 99 Grand Knights, 73 Program Directors, 67 Family Directors, 64 Community Directors are fully compliant

We need to do better

Please continue to work towards full compliance. Submit your Forms 185/365 designating Brothers to serve in the required roles and ask them to complete training (and background checks where applicable) within 30 days of receiving the email. Information on the Order’s Safe Environment program is available here:

<https://www.kofc.org/en/safe-environment-program/index.html>

To receive credit for the training, you must access it via the email link you will receive from Supreme. Also, you must comply with the Safe Environment requirements of your Diocese.

State Advocate



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State Advocate

Safe Environment Policies Overlap

Knights of Columbus Policy

Diocesan Policy



*excluding council meetings



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Zero Tolerance

In accordance with the Order's commitment to a Zero Tolerance policy for abuse of minors and vulnerable persons, members who are required by law to register as a sex offender or child offender are ineligible for membership in the Knights of Columbus, and must agree to notify their council's Grand Knight and/or Financial Secretary of any arrest, charge, indictment, guilty plea, criminal conviction, civil judgment, or adverse administrative determination involving either sexual misconduct or an offense against a child or a violent offense. Members must also agree to notify their council's Grand Knight and/or Financial Secretary of any felony conviction that occurs after having been initiated into the Knights of Columbus.

Rich Tracy, Jr

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Conducting Live C-U-F Ceremonies

Worthies and Brothers All,

At our recent Organizational Meetings at the end of July, one of the topics of conversation addressed our need to get back to conducting live C-U-F Ceremonies at every council. For those of us that have been around for a while, you remember how we took our 1st Degree, and then after about a year, we attend our 2nd and 3rd Degrees (many times on the same day), which usually took most of the day on either a Saturday or Sunday.

Supreme has since revamped the Degree Ceremony, combining all three elements of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity, into one, shortened 30-minute program, making it much easier for councils to bring new members in quickly. Combined with the new electronic Join process, it has never been easier to bring men into our councils!

Many councils have gotten away from conducting live C-U-F Ceremonies, choosing rather to have their new members simply watch a video of the Ceremony. Prior to COVID, there was no such thing as a video ceremony. All degrees were conducted live. The video was produced to enable us to continue to have men join our councils while we had limited group gatherings during the pandemic. We need all councils to get back to hosting live C-U-F Ceremonies immediately, as live Ceremonies are more impactful for our new Brothers. Going forward, the video is only to be used in extreme cases, as dictated in the Protocol and Ceremonial Handbook. **Sending a link to your prospect to view the C-U-F Ceremony in their home is prohibited by Supreme.**

We have asked all District Deputies to work with every council to establish Council C-U-F Teams. We also recommend that each District form a C-U-F Team that can assist councils to form their teams, as well as provide each District with an option to host regularly scheduled District C-U-F Ceremonies. In forming these teams, councils will be able to bring new prospects into their councils much quicker, so that they can get involved in our programs sooner. Statistics show that the longer we wait to conduct C-U-F's, the less likely the new e-member is to join the council.

State Warden



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Please review the Protocol, Meetings, and Ceremonials Booklet #11620 (also available to download from the K of C website). If you need assistance in forming your C-U-F Teams, please reach out to your District Deputy, myself or WSMD Ken Gallagher. We will be happy to help!

Our goal is to have all our councils give our new members and their families/guests the best Ceremonial experience possible. They deserve nothing less!

Vivat Jesus! Viva Cristo Rey!

State Warden

Dan Kudulis

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Brothers All,

As we continue to build and strengthen the COR program within our councils and parishes, I want to remind everyone of an important point: **COR may already be happening in your parish!** Before starting something new, take the time to learn what ministries are already available and work together with them.

We are not trying to complete or replace what is already being done. COR is an opportunity to offer men another way to grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ, to strengthen their faith, and to build authentic brotherhood with other Catholic men.

Please remember to have your **EFF Director report COR activities** as appropriate. Communication and collaboration are important as we continue to develop COR throughout our councils and parishes.

We are also pleased to welcome our **Diocesan Coordinator for Southern Arizona, Deacon Ernie Trujillo**. Please give Dcn. Ernie a warm welcome if he joins one of your COR sessions or attends one of your council meetings. His presence and support will be a valuable part of strengthening COR throughout Southern Arizona.

As we continue to grow, we are also looking for men who may be interested in serving as **Regional Directors**. If you feel called to help support and encourage COR in other councils and parishes, please send **Dcn. Bruce** a message. I would be happy to visit with you, answer questions, and discuss what this ministry might look like.

More information about COR and opportunities for growth will be shared at our **Mid-Year Meeting**.



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Evangelization and Faith Formation/ Cor

Thank you for all that you are doing to strengthen the faith of Catholic men and their families. Let us continue to work together, support one another, and most importantly, help men encounter Jesus and grow in their relationship with Him.

God bless each of you and those you love.

Dcn. Bruce Bennett, EdD

AZ State Director of Evangelization and Faith Formation

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Gregory Mattingly - Arizona Rosary Celebration

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For 51 years, the faithful in the diocese of Phoenix and 16 years in the Diocese of Tucson have experienced the beautiful and spiritually gratifying event each year that is the Arizona Rosary Celebration. Over 8,000 people in Tucson and Phoenix raise their voices to Heaven as they ask for Mary's intercession in prayer during this event each year.

This year, we honor Mary under her title Our Lady of Perpetual Help. Her intercession has helped many overcome their adversities and come closer to God.

We need the help of every Knight to fill the halls of the Phoenix Convention Center and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church in Tucson on the weekend of October 17 and 18, 2026 by encouraging your members and neighbors to attend the events. Place articles in your Council/Assembly newsletters. Also, if your parish does not have a representative to pass out information and coordinate your parish, please appoint one and attend the planning meetings; our next Parish Rep Meeting in Tucson is 12 September 2026, 9:30 am, at St. Augustine Cathedral, Marist Community Room and in Phoenix on 12 September 2026, 9:00 am, at Ss Simon and Jude parish. Additionally, it is important that your Council/Assembly support the event by purchasing an ad in the AZ Rosary Celebration program book. The cost of producing this event each year exceeds \$85,000 and is only through advertising and donations that the event is financed.

Please encourage your membership to attend the celebration in Tucson or Phoenix. They will be edified by its beauty, spirituality, and prayerful gathering of the faithful.

Gregory Mattingly,
Chairman, Arizona Rosary Celebration
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Arizona State Knights of Columbus
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2026-2027 State Leadership Team

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		Executive Secretary to the State Deputy	Rick Garrison 480-522-7064 kofcrick.garrison@gmail.com

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



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United in Love — Arizona State Pin 26–27

- Shaped in the outline of our desert home, this pin carries the heart of our mission.
- A heart formed by joined hands reflects Charity-the love of Christ alive in us, and the love we share through every act of service.
- Beneath it, tiny footprints proclaim our unwavering commitment to the right to life, honoring every child whose dignity we defend.
- The steadfast saguaro stands for Fraternity, reminding us that brotherhood shelters, strengthens, and endures.
- Arizona's rays and copper tones speak to Patriotism, a love for our state expressed through faithful citizenship and service.
- The Emblem of the Order stands proudly.



Together, these symbols call us to walk as one, a light in the desert, **United in Love**.

The Council Success 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.

A successful Council does each of the activities to keep that flywheel going: We Invite men into the Order and then Engage, Motivate, Evangelize and Retain. The areas of focus for each of those activities are around Membership, Programs, EFF/Cor, and Fraternal Benefits.

God is the center of all that we do, others come second, and self, third. Remember, Love **God** with all your heart, soul and mind and love your **neighbor** as **yourself**.

