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THE EXPLORER

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State Deputy's Message

Our fraternal year is two-thirds complete and the home stretch remains, What we accomplish in the final one-third of our year will tell the true story of our accomplishments. Our results thus far are respectable and look encouraging as we are well ahead of last year for dollars collected in the Tootsie Roll Drive and dollars pledged in the Adopt-a-Seminarian Program. Our membership numbers are looking excellent in many parts of the state and the contagious enthusiasm is growing by leaps and bounds in membership recruitment. Blessed Michael J. McGivney is surely smiling at the accomplishments of our charitable acts and growth of his Order in Kansas. However, we must not slow down now because if we quit recruiting a historic year could quickly turn into a year of shortcomings. Now is the time to roll up our sleeves and cap this year off with teamwork by every member across our state!

We still have several programs to focus on; Our Pro-Life efforts must continue as never before. The lives of the unborn as well as their mothers are depending on all our efforts to make sure that the "VALUE THEM BOTH" amendment passes on August 2, 2022. Our Pennies From Heaven program also needs your support to rebuild our funds after the many disasters in the south as well as the fires in Colorado and Kansas.

To make all of our programs flourish and maximize our good works we still need to add members to each and every one of our councils across our state. Has your council done its part to maximize your charitable contributions and to grow our Order so that the maximum amount of God's work can be accomplished? If not, now is the time to get started. Your Church and Community need your leadership as never before.

Your State Officers recently met with the Bishops of Kansas to report the accomplishments of our Order in this fraternal year. They were very very proud of and thankful for the hard work of our members across Kansas. We all agreed that we are all a team and we must work together for the honor and glory of God. We must continue to be the "Strong Right Arm of the Catholic Church." We must continue to be BOOTS on the ground for "VALUE THEM BOTH." We must all put forth our best team effort to uphold the rich history of membership recruitment and keep Kansas atop the leader board!

Happy recruiting and come August 2, 2022, we will be celebrating a victory of being in the Circle of Honor as well as a HUGE win for the amendment for "VALUE THEM BOTH." When this happens, we will know that "OUR WORKS TESTIFY"

Vivat Jesus
Jamey Roth
State Deputy



State Membership Director's Message

The weather is starting to turn, birds are singing, and days are starting to get longer, what a great time of the year. Want to know what can make it better? Inviting men to join our Order. We are in the process of setting up church drives where State Officers and the Leadership Team will come to YOU and help recruit. We will bring the material. All we ask of the local council, set a date with your Pastor, get help from your councils for each Mass. Other than that, the State will have everything else covered.

The State will also be attending different fish fry's and breakfasts over the rest of the fraternal year. Any man who joins right then, the State Council will pay for his and his family's meal. What a better way to start off as a member of the largest Catholic, FAMILY, fraternal organization than to have your family's meal paid for by joining.

We still have a long road ahead of us. We are behind where we were last year, but I have the confidence that we can catch up and exceed last year. As of March 1, Kansas was sitting at about 55% of it's Circle of Honor quota. The State Deputy and I implore you all to recruit, recruit, recruit so that by State Convention we are at 100%. It will take a lot of work, but Kansas is that second half team. Let's show everyone that coming out of COVID, we are still that same team and that we will not fail in the second half.

As of right now, we are planning on hosting an Exemplification of Charity, Unity and Fraternity at the State Convention. It will be held on Sunday morning, May 1 at the hotel. Past Supreme Knight Virgil C. Dechant always pushed for State Councils to have a ceremony at the State Convention and hopefully this year, we can make that happen. We do not want you to hold candidates until that weekend, get them in as soon as you can. But as we get closer, if your council has someone, let me know. They can become a Third Degree member Sunday morning and attend their very first convention business meeting that Sunday afternoon.

We are almost down to the fourth quarter, and we will need some hail Mary passes but again, I am confident that the members and councils of Kansas will pull through.

Vivat Jesus
Ed Miller
State Membership Director

State Program Director's Message

We are now less than two full months away from gathering in Topeka for this year's State Convention. A time for fraternity and celebrating the endless charitable acts that the Knights of Columbus have done throughout this fraternal year. Now, before we can celebrate, there is still much to be done.

It is now imperative to double check the calendar for due dates on reports and forms to be submitted. I urge each council to look at the [Star Council](#) requirements and see where you are lacking or what forms need to be sent in by logging in to your Officers Online account. As of the beginning of March, there are still more than 130 councils that have not sent in the Form 1728 that was due on Jan. 31st. Even if your council is not in the running for Star Council, please make sure this is submitted no later than March 31st. Along with forms, we



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need your help in making sure your council doesn't lose eligibility for Star Council due to non-compliance of the Safe Environment training. This training goes beyond the effort to be a star council. You can see if your council is in compliance by log in on to your officers online account. If you have any issues or questions in regards to this training, reach out to our State Advocate, Kevin Roberts, for additional guidance.

By now, your council should have selected it [Family of the Year](#) and [Knight of the Year](#) award winners. Deadline to submit to your District Deputy is March 10th. Have these to your DD as soon as possible so they have ample time to go through and score the winners and submit to the appropriate Diocesan Judge.

Our Faith Director, Todd Lutters, has been busy! Todd has been on the phone trying to reach councils that have yet to report anything for the RSVP or Adopt-a-Seminarian program. If your council has donated to a seminarian, let Todd know so he can keep his list of supported seminarians up to date and the goal of \$1,000 per seminarian is reached. If you need to report a donation, simply email Todd at faith@kansas-kofc.org.

Our Community Director, Travis Wurtz, is hot on the trail for any items that you or your councils could donate to this year's country store to be used for fundraising in our live and silent auctions at convention. If your council has a member that excels at woodworking, crafts, or any handmade or purchased item, please let Travis know that he can count on you or your council for an auction item. Travis can be reached at community@kansas-kofc.org. The proceeds from the country store help fund the Emergency Disaster Aid Program. With Tornado season just around the corner, Travis would also like to remind all councils to have an Emergency Response team in place should your neighbors or community be struck by a natural disaster. Reminder – the EDAP program is not limited to Knights and their families. Anybody, regardless of race, color or creed can be assisted through this program.

Life Director, Joseph Roth and wife Emily are still in search of additional location for new or replacement ultrasound machines as well as donations to help fund this program. If you think your community has a potential location contact Joe at life@kansas-kofc.org to see if we can get the ball rolling. Joe would like to remind all councils to submit their application for the [Evangelium Vitae Award](#). This prestigious award goes to a council that truly goes above and beyond the promotion of the Gospel of Life.

Commitment to Humanities Chairman, Patrick Burnett, is ready for a busy month! Special Olympics Basketball tournament are scheduled for March 12th in Topeka and March 19th in Hays. If you or anyone you know is interested in volunteering for these events, get in touch with Patrick. The State Council continues to be a major sponsor for these events thanks to the hard work done with the Tootsie Roll drives last October. While the deadline has passed, please go ahead and submit your tootsie roll report form to Pat at humanities@kansas-kofc.org if you have not done so already.

Family Director and State Advocate, Kevin Roberts, is excited again this year to see the nominations for Family of the Year. As mentioned above, please don't forget to send in your council's nomination to the District Deputy no later than March 10th. With the Lenton season upon us, Kevin would also like to remind all members that the [Good Friday Family Promotion](#) is a featured program in the family category of our Faith in Action programming model. Follow the link and learn what this program is all about and how to participate.

While many of our programs and activities have been completed, now is not the time to sit back and relax. Our parishes, communities, families, and neighbors could always use additional help and prayers. As we begin



the Lenten season, I would like to invite you all to go past the norm of giving something up for lent and challenge yourself, your family or your council to give something more this season. Perhaps an additional rosary during the week, an extra hour of prayer as a family or hosting one additional church drive for membership. By doing a little more, we will continue to show how our work testifies to who we are and what we do.

Vivat Jesus
Kevin Baalman
State Program Director

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March

- 5-6 81st Annual Men's Bowling Tournament in Wichita (3rd weekend)
- 6 State Free Throw Contest in Salina
- 10 **Deadline** for Council Knight of the Year to district deputy
- 10 **Deadline** for Council Family of the Year to district deputy
- 12 Special Olympics Basketball Tournament in Topeka
- 15 **Deadline** for Council Vocations Poster Contest winners to district deputy
- 20 **Deadline** for District Knight of the Year to Diocesan Judge
- 20 **Deadline** for District Family of the Year to Diocesan Judge
- 19 Special Olympics Basketball Tournament in Hays
- 25 Knights of Columbus Day of the Unborn Child
- 25 **Deadline** for District Vocations Poster Contest Winners to Vocations Chairman
- 29 Founder's Day, 138th Anniversary of Knights of Columbus

April

- 1 **Deadline** to submit council History Reports to State Historian
- 1 **Deadline** to fulfill Adopt-A-Seminarian Pledge
- 1 Submit RSVP Refund/Plaque Applications to Supreme
- 1 **Deadline** for Diocesan Knight of the Year Winners to Fraternal Chairman
- 1 **Deadline** for Diocesan Family of the Year Winners to Family Director
- 1 **Deadline** for Scrapbook entries of Best single activity in areas of Faith, Family Community & Life to appropriate Director
- 1 **Deadline** to submit Culture of Life Report Form to Life Director
- 1 **Deadline** to submit EVANGELIUM VITAE AWARD applications
- 1 **Deadline** to submit essay contest winners to State Youth Chairman
- 30 State Convention in Topeka
- 30 **Pennies Fund Deadline at NOON Saturday of Convention.**

Congratulations!

Knight of the Month, January – Thomas Micek, Council 4113 in WaKeeney
Family of the Month, January – Justin Weil Family, Council 1862 in Wright