



# THE EXPLORER

[www.kansas-kofc.org](http://www.kansas-kofc.org)

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Kansas Knights of Columbus

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## State Deputy's Message

### Happy 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary to the Knights of Columbus in Kansas

July 1, 2025, marks not only the beginning of another fraternal year in Kansas, but this year we are blessed to celebrate a powerful milestone: 125 years of the Knights of Columbus in Kansas. Over the last 125 years, our predecessors in Kansas have continued to grow the vision of the founder of our Order, Blessed Michael McGivney. A true legacy has been sewn, nurtured, and grown. For the last 125 years, Catholic men and their families have been defending their faith, promoting a culture of life, building strong families, and serving their parishes and communities. The principles of charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism have been lived out and remain the main mission of the Order in Kansas.

**"125 Years: Continuing a Legacy of Faith, Family, and Fraternity"** is the membership theme for this fraternal year. This theme honors the men and their families who have gone before us, working tirelessly to build the legacy that we have today. The theme is also a call to action for all current Knights of Columbus members and their families to continue to grow this legacy for future generations. It is a call for each of us to ensure that our councils and the Knights of Columbus in Kansas continue to grow, prosper, and remain vibrant for years to come. Our future generations are depending on us.

I am excited to work with our team of state officers, the leadership team, directors and chairman, district deputies, and council leaders for the upcoming fraternal year. I am inspired by your dedication and commitment to the Order in Kansas. Through your efforts, and the efforts of all my brother knights in Kansas, I am confident that we will have a very successful year of promoting the principles of our Order. At our state convention next May, I know we will be able to look back at all our successes for this fraternal year and will have set numerous records in our programming and membership areas. Plans are already

underway for special activities at the State Convention to celebrate our 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This will truly be a memorable event and one that you won't want to miss.

Although one fraternal year has ended, and a new one has begun, we can't slow down on our programs or inviting new men into the Order. We must keep the momentum going and continue the legacy that has been put into place by those before us. Now is the time to begin your plans for creating a legacy in your council and to invite the young men and their families in your parish to join so they can reap the benefits of the legacy that you have created.

Brother Knights, thank you for your passion, your prayers, and your dedication to the Order. May our efforts this year shine as brightly as the faith that brought us this far.

Vivat Jesus,  
Gary L. Wondra

## State Chaplain's Message

Brother Knights,

Pope Pius IX formally instituted the Feast of the Most Precious Blood on June 30, 1849, during the First Italian War of Independence. In a message he sent on that day, while in exile, to the superior general of the Fathers of the Most Precious Blood, Pope Pius IX established the feast to be celebrated "immediately" throughout Christendom on the first Sunday of July, dedicating the entire month to the Most Precious Blood of the Lord Jesus Christ:

"The Precious Blood which we worship is the Blood which the Savior shed for us on Calvary and reassumed at His glorious Resurrection; it is the Blood which courses through the veins of His risen, glorified, living body at the right hand of God the Father in heaven; it is the Blood made present on our altars by the words of Consecration; it is the Blood which merited sanctifying grace for us and through it washes and beautifies our soul and inaugurates the beginning of eternal life in it."

Although, since the revision of the liturgical calendar by the Second Vatican Council (1962-65), the Church no longer requires the Sunday observance of the Feast of the Most Precious Blood of the Lord Jesus Christ, the entire month of July still remains a time for its commemoration. A votive Mass of the Most Precious Blood was established for use by Catholic communities throughout the world with this Opening Prayer:



“O God, who by the Precious Blood of your only Begotten son have redeemed the whole world, preserve in us the work of your mercy, so that, ever honoring the mystery of our salvation, we may merit to obtain its fruits. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.”

On July 5, 2009, during his remarks at the Angelus, the late Pope Benedict XVI explained that:

“To the cry which rises from so many parts of the earth for the blood that is spilled, God responds with the Blood of his Son, who gave his life for us. Christ did not respond to evil with evil but with goodness, with his infinite love. The Blood of Christ is the pledge of God's faithful love for humanity. Every human being, even in conditions of extreme moral wretchedness can say, fixing his eyes on the wounds of the Crucified One: “God has not abandoned me, he loves me, he has given his life for me,” and thus rediscover hope.”

I encourage you to offer this prayer during the month of July for the Most Precious Blood.

*Most Precious Blood of Life Eternal, price of sinful man's redemption, by whose saving streams the thirst of souls is quenched, and their stains are washed away, you who plead the cause of humanity before the throne of infinite mercy, from the depths of my heart I adore you and desire, as much as lies in my power, to make atonement for the injuries and insults that are constantly offered you by our world and especially by those who rashly dare to blaspheme you. Who will not bless and praise this Blood of infinite value? Whose soul would not be inspired with love for Jesus Who shed It all for us? What would be my fate, had I not been redeemed by this Divine Blood? And what drew you from the veins of my Savior even to the last drop? It was love! O boundless love, which has given us this saving balm! O priceless balm, welling from the fount of immeasurable love! Grant that all hearts and tongues may praise you, magnify you, and give you thanks, now and throughout all ages. Amen.*

Vivat Jesus  
Fr. Brian Lager

## State Membership Director's Message

Brother Knights,

Celebrating 125 Years of the Knights of Columbus in Kansas!!

In 1882, Father Michael J. McGivney founded the Knights of Columbus with a vision of charity, unity and fraternity

grounded in Catholic faith. Just eighteen years later in 1900 that vision found a home in Kansas -- and today we are proud to celebrate 125 years of faithful service, brotherhood, and community impact across our great state.

As we mark this important milestone, we reflect on the values that have guided us: charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism. These principles are not just words -- they are the heartbeat of our mission and the foundation of everything we do, from serving our parishes and neighbors to supporting families and defending the faith.

But this celebration is not just about looking back. It's about moving forward -- and we have a goal in mind. This year, we are working to earn our place in the Circle of Honor (COH). To get there, we need your help.

We are inviting 125 Catholic men and their families to join our brotherhood each month in Kansas. Whether you're new to the faith or a lifelong member, whether you are single or have a growing family, the Knights of Columbus offers a place to grow in service, in spirit, and in fellowship.

If you've ever considered becoming a Knight -- or if you know someone who should -- now is the time. Together, we can honor our past, strengthen our present, and build a brighter future for generations to come.

Vivat Jesus  
Andy Gilner

## State Program Director's Message

Brother Knights,

As we begin another fraternal year, roughly half of our councils have new leadership. If you have not already done so, now is the time to plan out your year. Your council should have submitted an SP-7 Columbian Application Award for the previous fraternal year. That is a great place to start. Place all of those events onto your calendar. Is your council going to start a new event, perhaps replacing a program you have done in the past? Make sure you do not create a gap in your Faith in Action categories for the Columbian Award. You can find a link to those programs below.

### Faith in Action (Supreme website):

<https://www.kofc.org/en/what-we-do/faith-in-action-programs/index.html>

Another great resource to utilize in our Kansas State Council website (see link below). You can find a wealth of important information on this site. The State Deputy's message is at the top of the page. Scroll down below for additional information. Need to find a seminarian to



support for the year? That link is on the page to the right as you scroll down. Need to quickly find the procedures for the E.D.A.P. Program? That is on the page as well. Most importantly, the Program & Membership (P&M) Guide is listed under one of the headers at the top of the page – Programs. Once you hover your mouse over that title, the P&M Guide will be at the top of the list. I encourage you sync the calendar to your own phone. Print out relevant sections if needed, or just come back periodically throughout the year as needed. Need to contact a state officer, director, or chairman, look under the Personnel header. Explore the website to find what other treasurers exist.

## State Website:

[www.kansas-kojc.org/](http://www.kansas-kojc.org/)

In closing, the success of your council depends upon planning out the fraternal year and paying attention to all deadlines. If you are not having a monthly planning meeting, set up a regular time to meet with your council officers. You need to look 3 to 6 months out into future months to really stay on top of everything. Remember that the reason we have these programs is to help our parish and our community, not because we want to win an award. However, if you follow the guidelines provided by Supreme and the State Council, you can do both and earn the recognition your council deserves.

Vivat Jesus,  
Lorin Haas

## State Evangelization and Faith-Formation Director's Message

Greetings Brother Knights,

Supreme wants to make sure that we emphasize the Mission and Vision of COR:

The Mission: to help focus Catholic men on Jesus by building Christ-centered brotherhood through a flexible framework of prayer, formation and fraternity.

The Vision: To aid in transforming the hearts of men through Christ-centered brotherhood. Rooted in prayer, formation and fraternity, men will be sharpened in faith and virtue as they cultivate authentic friendships with Christ and each other. We envision a future where COR continuously helps sustain these men to lead their families, strengthen their parish communities and courageously evangelize the world as missionary disciples of Jesus Christ.

To better understand COR, it might be helpful for each of you to watch this video ---

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gaVD4oqvnSs>

To help establish a COR group, use the following contact list for a reference guide:

- State EFF Director: Garold White
- Diocesan EFF Chairmen
  - Salina – open position
  - Wichita – open position
  - Dodge City – Greg Lix
  - Kansas City – open position
  - Western Hispanic chairman – Ray Felix
- Clergy Assistance
  - Rev. Brian Lager
  - Local Pastors

The phone numbers and emails for all are available on the Kansas K of C website. There are multiple suggestions for topics available on the Supreme Website.

If you have questions, please contact me or any of the people listed above

Vivat Jesus,  
Garold White

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### JULY

- 1 **Form #185—Report of Officers Chosen for the Term due at Supreme**
- 1 **Form #365—Service Program Personnel Report due at Supreme**
- 1 Deadline to submit a bid to host 2026 State Golf Tournament
- 26 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Tournament in Wellington hosted by Council #2227
- 31 **Deadline** for ordering Soccer Challenge Kit

### AUGUST

- 5-7 143rd Supreme Convention – Washington, D.C.
- 12 Blessed Michael McGivney Birthday
- 14 135<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the death of Blessed Michael McGivney
- 15 Form #1295 Semi-Annual Audit Report due at Supreme
- 30 **Deadline** to submit council History Reports to State Historian for FY 2024-2025
- 31 **Deadline** for ordering Tootsie Rolls

## Congratulations!

**Knight of the Month for May 2025:** Larry Pruett, Council 2093, Nortonville

**Family of the Month for May 2025:** The Troy Walker Family, Council #12546, Wea