

South Dakota Knights of Columbus CRUSADER

“Faith, Family, Fraternity”

Volume 68

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COR — Building Men's Faith

Pope Leo XIV and the KofC promotion of Cor call not only the Knights but to the broader church to step forward to build their faith through prayer, study and community. While clearly we stand in challenging times on many fronts, there is a renewal of faith particularly on Catholic fronts. According to the August 14 Catholic Herald reports, “more Americans are joining than leaving for the first time in decades.” “The Catholic Church in the United States is witnessing a remarkable surge in adult conversions, reaching levels not seen in over two decades,” according to World's Catholic News.

Even on an anecdotal level in South Dakota, I am seeing a rise in the numbers of people who are approaching OCIA programs, and many parishes are seeing surges in the numbers, particularly of young people and young families. This past month at our Cathedral in Rapid City, with the start of the fall OCIA program, we experienced an abundant outpouring of attendees. We hastily added chairs and tables to accommodate the overflow demand – an unex-

pected but exciting experience.

Earlier this month, I went with State Treasurer Jeff Gillen to New Haven and attended Cor training for State Evangelization and Faith Formation (EFF) Directors. Listening to the sessions and hearing from other State's leadership, it became increasingly clear what Cor has to offer our councils and parishes. Cor was created to respond to the emerging need to welcome young men to the faith. Its focus is three-fold:

1. To form men through quality formation programs.
2. To set the table for them to encounter the divine in prayer.
3. To build a Christ-centered brotherhood which will help to lead souls to Christ.

While this isn't new to the Knights, it has taken on a renewed urgency. We are all about service, far too many young people have been raised without a faith home or regular participation in faith. These young people are longing for

something more. We have to realize that for whatever the reason, this generation will not show up for our service projects, our business meetings or even to church until they come to know the “who behind the why.” Too many are finding the world's answers lacking, but the answer to all of the questions of the human heart are only answerable when one has an encounter with Christ. As the old Baltimore Catechism once reminded us, “We are created to know, to love and to serve the Lord to be happy with him in this world and in the next.” So what these young men don't know, they won't love and what we don't love, we won't serve.

Through Cor, the Knights of Columbus meet men where they are - yearning for faith, asking questions and seeking the Lord. In prayer and study, men will find what they have been looking for all their lives: Love, belonging, mercy, mission, hope, purpose and meaning.

Please consider starting Cor at your council for your parish and invite the future generations of men, who don't yet know Christ, to join our efforts. Once they knock and enter this door, they will then be primed to join our Order for faith filled fraternity and they will desire to serve Him all their lives.

Thank you for your leadership. Please call me if you are ready to take this step or need more information.

Sincerely,
Jim Kinyon
EFF Director
(605) 431-3164

**For additional
information and
resources on COR,
please visit
kofc.org/cor**





South Dakota Bishops

Most Rev. Donald DeGrood
Bishop of Sioux Falls

Most Rev. Scott E. Bullock
Bishop of Rapid City

State Leadership

Current State Officers

State Chaplain
Father DeWayne Kayser

State Deputy
Dan Johnson

State Secretary
James Schaefer

State Treasurer
Jeff Gillen

State Warden
Andrew Wolter

**Immediate Past
State Deputy**
Ray Pierson

State Advocate
Steve Fox

Administrative Assistant
Scott Schroeder

Crusader Contact
Steve Mayer
kofccrusader@gmail.com



Fr. DeWayne Kayser **State Chaplain**

My dear brother Knights,

As we enter full swing of the school year with all kinds of sporting events and even the holiday season, I would like to invite you to remember our brother Knights whom we have not seen for some time. I think that as Knights we really need to reach out to our brothers to see how they are doing or if they need any help or prayer. This is an initiative that was promulgated by the Supreme Council about 4 or so years ago. It is called Leave no brother Knight behind. It was at the height of COVID when this came down.

This program is meant for all to really live out our true Christian identity by helping each of our fellow Christians to be Christ to each other. Jesus calls each of us to be Christ to our fellow Christians. I find it interesting that we will sit around a table and talk about our neighbor and ask others if they have seen this person or that person but not pick up the phone and call them to see if they needed anything or if they needed help. We seem to have this mentality that we are all in it for ourselves and to hell with everyone else. I believe that we need to get back to a mindset that it takes a village to raise a child or shall we say a culture of caring. We as fellow Knights need to reach out and ask and if we get rejected don't get discouraged keep trying. Jesus was rejected, and when he was it did not discourage him,

he kept going and so must we.

Most of us Knights in South Dakota live in small towns and have an idea of who our fellow knights are that need a call. However, we become paralyzed because of a perceived rejection. For those knights that live in a larger metropolitan area are not in a unique situation of knowing their fellow knight. We all, no matter where we live, need to stand up and live up to our mission and culture of caring.

Please my fellow Knights, I ask you to reach out to our fellow knights who do not come to the meetings or help at events and ask them if they need anything. If they do not, then ask them if they need some specific prayers offered. My recommendation is that when you start reaching out to our fellow Knights, please offer a prayer for them first. When we put this program in the hands of God, we know it is the right thing, when we put it in our own hands then it will not work. We need to stop complaining about our fellow knights that don't help or pay their dues and start praying for them and helping them. This is who a real Knight is, A MAN OF PRAYER FIRST, and then a man of action. God Knows our actions even though others don't. Please know of my prayers for you all.

Love in JM&J
Fr. DeWayne Kayser
SD State KofC Chaplain

New Email Addresses for State Officers Effective July 1, 2025

Dan Johnson — statedeputy@kofcsd.org
Ray Pierson — sdipsd@kofcsd.org
James Schaefer — statesecretary@kofcsd.org
Jeff Gillen — statetreasurer@kofcsd.org
Andrew Wolter — statewarden@kofcsd.org
Steve Fox — stateadvocate@kofcsd.org
Ron Seaman — sdprogramdirector@kofcsd.org
Scott Schroeder — adminasst@kofcsd.org



Dan Johnson
State Deputy

Brother Knights

"Journey to the Heart of Mary"

I am so looking forward to the next nine months. The State officers have put together a fabulous "TEAM". Make sure you log into the state website and see the layout of our "TEAM" members. Actually, some of the "TEAM" members cleaned up for a picture!

Supreme incentive "Fishers of Men" When Jesus called his disciples to be "Fishers of Men," he was inviting them to participate in a mission. It was a summons to build relationships, to inspire transformation, and to gather people into a community marked by service and commitment. But being a "Fisher of Men" is not merely about recruitment. It is about cultivating a culture in which every member is both a seeker and a guide, it is about recognizing that the nets we cast are woven from genuine connection and the desire to see our order survive.

I had the honor to be installed as your State Deputy in June at St. Mary's Church, The church where the Knights was founded and where Fr. McGivney's tomb is located, it a pilgrimage destination for those who wish to pray for his intercession. Then have to honor to sit in the same South Dakota pew that so many others have sat in since 1905. I pray that I can follow their leadership of the South Dakota Knights of Columbus. I am humbled and honored for the trust you have

Most Important:
Let us serve, grow, and
have fun while we do it!

placed in me. While we were in New Haven PSD Woody Woodraska called me. He offered congratulations and said to contact him if I ever needed help. Woody passed away about 3 weeks later. Woody. May you Rest in Peace my friend.

The Supreme Convention was held back in August in Washington, DC. Wow, Wow, Wow! This was my 2nd Supreme Convention that I had the honor to attend. Jeannie and I had a wonderful experience. This annual gathering serves as a touchstone of the Knights mission and values. The convention brings together delegates and members from across the order. If you have never been to a Supreme Convention, you must add it to your

"Bucket List"! It will be held in Denver in August 2026 (see the delegates notes from the convention in this crusader)

I want to Thank St. Lambert Council #13302 and PGK Rick Friedman for hosting the Summer Organizational meeting, You knocked it out of the park! Thank you brothers!

Means a lot to have your council support you!

In closing, to be a "Fisher of Men" is to live with open hands and an open heart. It is to invite others on a journey of discovery, growth, and service. As brother Knights, we need to grow our faith, strengthen our councils, and carry on the mission of Fr. Michael McGivney.

I challenge all of you to cast your nets out, cast them far and wide, guided by Fr. Michael McGivney and may all your nets be filled. Because we are all "Fisher of Men"

Blessings

Dan



Hawaii State Deputy with Dan

Just Hanging Loose!

From the State Deputy, Notes for Today, Vision for Tomorrow"

- **"Fishers of Men"** Supreme's membership incentive program - let us keep building our councils!
- **Exemplifications - Goal:** one exemplification per quarter, per council. Get them scheduled now!!
- **Church Drives - Goal:** Every council conduct two church drives per year. Talk to your District Deputy and Field Agent to assist.
- **Membership: "Go for Two":** At the Supreme convention Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly asked that every Knight to invite two men to join our order. We need to sustain our order. On average, over 140 Knights pass away every day across our order.
- **Faith in Action:** Supreme is rolling out eight new Faith in Action programs this year.
- **State Goal:** For every council to achieve "STAR" in South Dakota.
- **State Goal:** State Officers to visit every council this year either to a meeting or an event! Invite the State Officers to Council meetings.
- **State Service Project:** Mary Shrine Yankton, SD. Contact Kevin Buhl, Yankton Council.
- **Fr McGivney:** Remember the widows and orphans. Please remember the widows of our past brother Knights. Invite them to

a council function, check on them, make sure they are doing ok.

- **Soccer/Hockey Challenges:** Asking all councils to roll out a Soccer and or Hockey Challenge at your local council. Along with the Free Throw competition Think of what an impact we can have with our youth and families in your parishes! Contact John Cihak for details.
- **Safe Environment:** You know who you are!! Please get logged in, complete your required training. We do not want to see a council miss "STAR" because the Safe Environment requirements were not met. For questions on Safe Environment, contact PSD Gerald Dvorak.
- **Forms:** We are still missing several 185's and 365's from your councils. Get them sent ASAP.
- **The Supreme per capita is due by October 10th or your council will be in suspension!!**
- **Questions:** Please reach out to your DD's
- We all need to seize these opportunities of what we as Knights in South Dakota are doing in your parish and community. **Get the word out!!**
- **Midyear Meeting in Yankton, Nov. 22-23.**



James Schaefer **State Secretary**

Hello Brother Knights, wives, and families,

We have been blessed with moisture this past summer, which kept our prairies and hills in a rich green tint, even through August. As always, we pray that the weather continues to cooperate for our farmers and ranchers, as they bring in the fall harvest and hay for the winter cattle feed.

With all that goes on during these days please remember to share the Lords Day with Him and your families at Masses, church events, and family outings. Enjoy your neighboring parish fall gatherings. It's a great time to share the good foods they prepared and a chance to visit one another. A smile and friendly handshake, talking about kids' growth and activities they may have done within the past year or

years, is a great form of evangelization. Jesus tells us to "Go out and spread the Good Word amongst the people."

Bring this same thought back to your own parishes. Look into helping be greeters before Mass, lead a rosary with your family, or wherever Father may need help. Use your talents of smiling and welcoming people back to Mass each week. Alternate leading a decade of the rosary with your family, remember you'll only be nervous the first time.

Communication is a huge part of being able to work with this State Council, team of District Deputies, Grand Knights and all the Brother Knights in our State. If you need to reach me or anyone on the State Team, you can text our phone numbers, email us, or call our phones. If you call and I or we don't answer, please leave a message. I have been getting more spam calls from towns within the state that have no meaning. In this role as a state officer, I expect a phone call with questions or whatever. Please leave a message, I will return your call.

Blessings to all of you,
Vivat Jesus,
Sir James Schaefer



Ron Seaman **State Program Director**

It's hard to believe that it is already October. The first quarter of our fraternal year is now in the rear window. My hope is that the beginning of your fraternal year has been an active and fruitful one. I know that summer is a busy time for all, but it is also a great opportunity for our councils to build the family ties within our councils. Don't forget to consider submitting your activities for outstanding activity awards. It may seem like something insignificant to you but it can inspire other councils to grow in their programs as well.

If you have not been active as a council you should shift to high gear. It becomes a real challenge to meet your goals for programming if it is not spaced out throughout the entire fraternal calendar year. Please remember that the Columbian Award application is a wonderful tool for your annual program planning. This year we are kicking off opportunities for Soccer and Hockey Challenges with state level competitions. If you have already completed your Council challenge please reach out to Youth Program Coordinator John Cihak. Other programs that should be in full swing are our Coats for Kids program. October is traditionally a month dedicated to Mary. It is a great time to support life activities and the offer activities for families centering on our devotion to our Blessed Mother. Remember that every activity we are offering is an opportunity to invite other men to join us in our mission. Together we grow stronger if faith and fraternity.



Gregg Boggs **Dwight Gutzmer** **James Hulm** **William Swanson** **State Membership Directors**

Gregg Boggs — South of Highway 14— East River
gregghandyman@gmail.com
Dwight Gutzmer — North of Highway 14
East River — 605-870-1065
James Hulm — West river to Highway 73
hulmspoorfarm@hotmail.com

William Swanson — Far West River Highway 73 West
retirebill1642@gmail.com

We had a slow start with school and religion program back on so are the Knights. Growth is out there, as e-members are still signing on. As councils invite those member into their councils and have them invited to their events.

If you have any question feel free to contact the membership director in your area. Or anyone of us. More than happy to watch South Dakota Knights grow in members.

Yes, now there are four State Membership Directors. We are a team to keep you in check and assist where needed. We will reach out and stay in touch.

Exemplify . . . bring them into the Knights.



Jeff Gillen
State Treasurer

Traveling Icon and Cor

Recently I had the opportunity to represent South Dakota in New Haven and learn more about the tools and talents that support Cor. Simply put — Wow! Supreme has really created a great “not a program” resource tool chest to further one of Blessed Michael McGivney’s main visions - to help men come together and build their faith.

I went with our own Jim Kinyon and experienced the spiritual side of our Order. Almost every jurisdiction was represented, and the testimony was pleased how “grass-roots” Cor really is. The material is self-guiding; there is even a retreat program that any one of us could open and walk a group of brother Knights and parishioners through.

As I sat next to Jim in New Haven, I was amazed at his knowledge and understanding of the Scriptures. I consider myself to be one of the men his article is focused on. While I may not be as young as I think Jim focused on, the age of the individual isn’t as important as their desire to seek and know Christ.

I also attend a men’s group at my parish. We have been using “That Man is You” materials. While it helps build my “male leadership” ethos of my faith and offers coffee and breakfast fan-fare for those early mornings, it hasn’t really sparked me, yet, to be better in prayer.

Men’s groups have really taken off in the Sioux Falls diocese, I now know Cor is another great resource men will find complementary and even more rewarding.

Jim and I also went to St Mary’s church, where the Order was founded, and sat in the South Dakota pew not more than 20 feet from Blessed Michael McGivney’s tomb. Where all State Deputies have sat when they were installed by the Supreme Knight. I encourage all Knights and their families to visit New Haven, St Mary’s church, and the KofC Museum. It is very moving to see the birthplace of the Order and to see the living history it provides.

Every council has a unique opportunity to wrap together the next traveling icon with Cor as the same mental image is used, “The heart of Christ,” and experiencing and understanding his eternal love for each and everyone of us. Bishop DeGrood’s pastoral vision statement for our Dioceses has preceded this opportunity we have before us.

“The Diocese of Sioux Falls is committed to building a culture of Lifelong Catholic Missionary Discipleship Through God’s Love.” (pulled from the diocese web site).

To become lifelong . . . disciples of Christ! Many men desire to strengthen and broaden their faith for the good of not only themselves but more importantly for their spouses and children. To be able to guide them, protect them, to know Christ and to help them to heaven.

Vivat Jesus,
Jeff Gillen



Jeff sitting in the South Dakota Chair



Jim Kinyon and Jeff at St. Mary's church, New Haven, CT

Supreme Convention – 2026 – Washington, DC



Cardinal Dolan and Dan Johnson



SD Delegation
Left to right:
Ray Pierson,
Austin
Guenther, Jeff
Gillen, Paul
Lambert, Galen
Jordre and Dan
Johnson.



SD Delegation
State Dinner
Left to right:
Austin
Guenther,
Jeff Gillen,
Ray Pierson,
Supreme
Chaplain Lori,
Dan Johnson,
Paul Lambert,
and Galen
Jordre.

Acting as a delegate for the Supreme Convention enabled me to see the Knights of Columbus at its finest. I gained new appreciation for the positive worldwide impact of the Knights through programs, volunteer efforts, and monetary contributions. A tenet of the Knights is that we stand in solidarity with our priests. I was impressed with the number of priests, bishops, and cardinals who showed their solidarity with the Knights by attending the convention. State Deputy Dan Johnson guided the South Dakota delegation to represent our state council, enjoy the camaraderie of Knights from around the world, and be inspired by the beautiful Masses held each day. Consider serving as a delegate - you won't regret it if you are elected.

Galen Jordre



SDSU GK Austin
Guenther and
Supreme Patrick
Kelly.



SDSU GK and
Iowa State
Chaplin Father
Dan Guenther.
They are related.

I want to begin by thanking all of you for choosing me to represent the great state of South Dakota at the Knights of Columbus Supreme Convention this year. It was an experience I will never forget and will forever be grateful. Some of the moments I will especially cherish include the personal message and blessing we received from Pope Leo XIV, a personal introduction to Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly, and the new and old friends I was able to meet throughout the week.

This trip will be particularly impactful as I begin leading the SDSU council as Grand Knight. Throughout my time in D.C. I was able to witness numerous example of exemplary leadership that I can only hope to emulate. I have also made many great friendships I can call upon when I inevitably need help and guidance. Most importantly, being surrounded by hundreds of faithful men has further inspired my personal faith and dedication to the Knights and our mission.

At this point, I do not know where God will take me in the future, but I look forward to continuing to serve in this amazing brotherhood, hopefully with all of you in this great state we call home.

Vivat Jesus,
Austin Guenther

The Supreme Convention is a time to renew friendships that have been made over the years as well as always meeting someone new. The supreme council staff works very hard so all participants enjoy themselves in a true spirit of Fraternity and it provides great renewal to the spirit when spending time with so many like minded individuals from around the globe.

Highlights for me this year was the Memorial Mass where we remembered in a special way our deceased brother knights. Two individuals that were special to me were Pope Francis and PSD Deacon Alfred "Bud" Jetty. I had personally met both of these men, one on two separate occasions and the other for more than 3 decades. Both had such a gentle spirit about them and both placed concerns of others before their own. It was a great tribute that the Knights acknowledge these deceased members and I was humbled to participate in this Memorial Mass.

Paul Lambert

Supreme Convention — 2026 — Washington, DC



Archbishop Tobin of New Jersey was the one of celebrants at the E-Mass at Supreme with Dan Johnson, Fr. Dan Guenther and Austin Guenther.



South Dakota delegation enjoyed a Wednesday evening dinner cruise on the Potomac River.



Front: Dan Johnson, Bishop Bubnly of Ukraine and Jeff Gillen. Back: Austin Guenther and Ray Pierson.



State Treasurer Jeff Gillen and his wife Cheri and her brother Bill Dellman at the Basilica in Washington DC.

White House Visit



Jeff and Cheri Gillen



Dan and Jeannie Johnson



Galen and Ann Jordre



Andrew Wolter State Warden

Brother Knights and Families,

How can we be better stewards? In the Gospel reading for today, the twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Jesus gives his disciples the poignant message that we cannot serve both God and mammon. The homily today was a great reminder to me that our stewardship is not just where we spend our money, but our gift of time and talents are equal parts of that stewardship message. We might want to spend our time scrolling on our phones or watching television, but dedicating our time to those activities is only service to mammon.

Our councils are in desperate need of your time and talents! I have yet to hear about a council event where the council is turning away volunteers because they have more help than they need. If we want to be good stewards, not just to our council, but to our children and to God himself, we must dedicate our time and our talents to doing the Lord's work and helping our brother knights serve our communities. I encourage each of you to help with a council event this year that you have never helped with before. More importantly, I want to challenge you to reach out to your Brother Knights and encourage them to be better stewards toward our councils. Remind them that setting a good example for their children makes them a better steward to their families and the sacrifices we make in the name of service bring us even closer to God.

Are you having a challenging time setting down the phone or turning off the television so you can focus on being a better steward? Do not worry, most people have that struggle. I

especially have that struggle! Recently, I found myself reading and reflecting on a bold book: *The Power of Silence* by Robert Cardinal Sarah. Cardinal Sarah is a great advocate for shutting off and setting down the ever-blaring devices that overstimulate our brains and can block out the voice of God in our everyday life. In this book he provides compelling reflections about his own time spent in silence and encourages everyone to spend more time in silence so they can be closer to God. Can you imagine the extra time we would have if we were all able to just put down our phones? Can you imagine the peace we might each experience in our souls if we could block out the information superhighway that rumbles through our minds each day? If you need help with this, I encourage you to seek out this book, find that silence that will bring you closer to God, and dedicate valuable time being a better steward to your own soul.

Finally, I want to leave you with a prayer. A prayer that I hope you can use when you are feeling lost or clumsy. A prayer to humble yourself before God to ask for his guidance to do His will. I carry this prayer with me in my briefcase, and I find myself saying at least one part of it every day. I especially find myself saying this prayer each time someone asks me to do "just one more thing" or help with "just one more event." This prayer helps me to not feel overwhelmed or overbooked, but to feel called by God and to help me listen to God. This prayer is credited to Fr. Mycal Judge who served as chaplain to the New York City Fire Department and was the first recorded victim of the terrorist attacks on September 11th, 2001. I hope it can help you be a better steward in your family, council, and community.

"Lord, take me where You want me to go,
let me meet who You want me to meet,
tell me what You want me to say,
and help keep me out of Your way."

Vivat Jesus!



Jon Beebe, FICF Insurance General Agent

Is there a gap between the insurance coverage you have and the insurance coverage you need?

Maybe you wonder about this every once in a while, before putting it out of mind. Or maybe you don't think about it all. But September is Life Insurance Awareness Month, so I think it's important to bring this question up now.

Let's explore some situations in which you might need to fill an insurance gap:

Young adults. If you're getting group coverage through your employer, consider what will happen if your job situation changes. That coverage is not likely to follow you. The good news is, buying your own life insurance is generally more affordable the younger you are, so don't miss the op-

portunity to lock in coverage now.

Those with accrued debt. Life insurance can help ensure money is available to pay off any debts, such as student loans or a mortgage, without forcing your loved ones to sell assets or inherit a financial obligation.

Those who are married. Many married couples share financial responsibilities. If one spouse dies, the other could struggle to cover those expenses alone.

Those with children. Life insurance helps protect children in case of tragedy. It ensures they would be able to maintain their standard of living, stay in their home, help cover child-care or schooling and eventually go to a secondary education option, if desired.

Small business owners. You built your business — now protect it. Life insurance can help with estate planning, final expenses and ensuring your business would operate if the unexpected happens.

There are many reasons why you may need life insurance protection, and we're here to help you find the coverage that matches your needs.



Tim Salmen **Ceremonials Chairman**

Greetings from my family to yours! As I write this column, I am watching a steady but gentle rain fall outside. It is quite peaceful as it falls straight down, and a very slight breeze is making the leaves on the trees flutter ever so gently. This is just one of the many gifts we are blessed to receive from our God above. Please take the time to thank Him every chance you get for the many blessings you receive.

As fall approaches, school is in full swing, along with the many activities that go along with it. If you are a parent or grandparent of a school age child, you may be busy traveling to music and sporting events, practices, and a host of other activities. Add to that harvest getting started. We are no doubt all busy. However, we need to remain active in our councils in the areas of inviting eligible men to join us and then helping them attain the 3rd Degree through our Exemplification of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity.

If possible, plan to host an exemplification in your parish. Talk to your priest and find the best time to hold it, whether it be after Saturday evening Mass, between Sunday Masses, or on an evening during the week. Wednesday evenings are an opportunity to hold an exemplification, while faith formation classes are going on. Once a date and location have

been set, ask eligible men in your parish and pastorate to join our Order and inform them when and where the exemplification will be held. Make sure you invite their families to attend and observe. Offer to pick them up and give them a ride. Plan for a brief time for fellowship following the exemplification. These things will all lead to a new member who is eager and excited to become involved in your council.

If it is not possible for a prospective member to make it to an exemplification, they can join online, as well as take the online exemplification. This is a valuable resource for helping men join our order and become better husbands, fathers, and Catholics.

If you are a new member just reading your first issue of *The Crusader*, and you know of a man in your parish or a Newman Club member you've met on campus who might be interested in joining our Order, ask him. If you're not comfortable with asking him, give his name to one of the officers of your council and they would be happy to contact him and offer the opportunity to belong to the largest Catholic fraternal lay organization in the world.

If anyone ever has questions about hosting an exemplification, or about online exemplifications, please feel free to contact me and I will be happy to assist you and answer your questions. You can email me at salment@iw.net or you can call or text me at 605-480-2199. Also, please keep me informed of any exemplification dates and locations so we can get the word out to surrounding councils.

Vivat Jesus!
Tim Salmen
Ceremonials Chairman



Scott Cunningham **Council Retention Chairman** **McGivney Guild/Historian**

Brother Knights and Families,

As Fall has made it's return, so do many council activities. Whether it's Parish Bazaar's, Pancake Breakfasts or Tootsie Roll Drives, many great opportunities arise needing our councils help. I would encourage you to volunteer when asked to help out. The time spent with brother knights is always a great time of fraternity. Hopefully it will inspire you to help again or take a leadership role for an activity. The most important step is to say YES when asked to help.

The South Dakota Knights of Columbus will be celebrating our 125th anniversary in 2029. One of the projects I will be completing as your State Historian is to update your leadership information since the 100th anniversary. In the near future I will be asking councils to share with me the Grand Knight's name and fraternal years served since 2003. We will compile those names to updates our history book produced back then. Please begin to compile that Grand Knight information to help with this project.

I look forward to sharing some of our State Council history tidbits in future *Crusader* articles.

Vivat Jesus,
Scott Cunningham, PSD
State Historian



Gerald Dvorak, PSD Fourth Degree

Brother Knights and Families,

Hope you and your families had a great and relaxing summer! I pray that all the farmers have a successful and safe harvest this fall, and that all the students return to classes with renewed vigor to learn!

As the Knights of Columbus continue to celebrate the 125th Anniversary of the 4th Degree, our Country is approaching its 250th Anniversary of Independence. It is a great time to not only celebrate our Catholic Faith, but also our love of country and the freedom and liberty it provides. Even with the current unrest, it is still the greatest Country on Earth and we must always support it, defend it, and work to improve it every day.

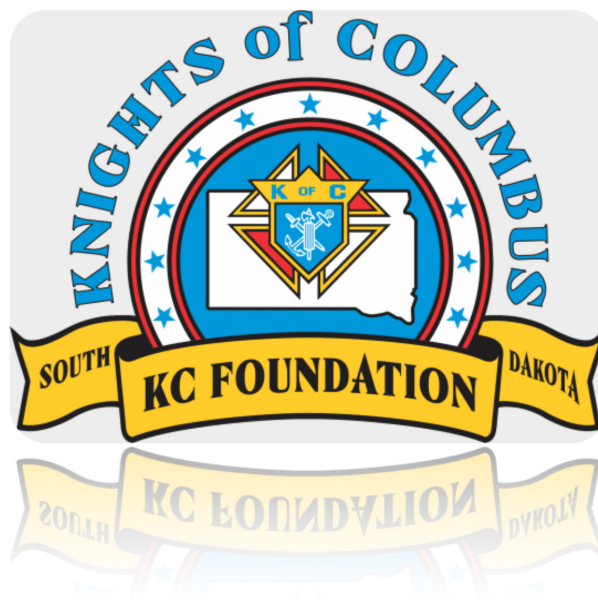
The 4th Degree adds the 4th principle of Patriotism to the initial principles of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity. It is important to note that the word patriotism comes from the Latin word 'patria'- meaning one's homeland, and that our homeland as Catholics is Heaven- this is why we have the Cross of our Savior as the 4th Degree Emblem. We must never forget that all our work here on Earth must be toward our Heavenly Father's will for us- that we are to deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow Him. That's why our Catholic Faith must be first and foremost in our minds and



actions. Our US Constitution gives our Church freedom to worship, among other guaranteed rights, so it is always important to us to know what the Constitution says if we are to protect and defend those rights. As with our Faith, we must know it to defend it.

Brothers, if you are not yet a Sir Knight, I invite you and your family to partake in an upcoming Exemplification in your area- please reach out to your Grand Knight or the Faithful Navigator for the Assembly in your region. We would love to have you join us during this 125th Anniversary year!

Vivat Jesus
Gerald Dvorak, MFD



Ways to Provide Financial Assistance to the Foundation

1) Personal Donations

- Donations are tax deductible (Foundation is 501(c)(3) corp.)
- Donation of Required Minimum Distributions from Retirement funds, etc.

2) Support of State Convention Activities

- Pennies for Change
- KC Auction (1/2 of proceeds go to the Foundation)

3) Estate Plan

- Leave a portion of your estate to the KC Foundation

Donations can be sent to:

**SD KC Foundation
Attn: Gerald Dvorak, Treasurer
406 Mulligan Circle
Hartford, SD 57033**

2026 S.D. KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FREE THROW CHAMPIONSHIP Council Champion T-Shirt Order

South Dakota Knights of Columbus councils will again have the opportunity to award their "Council Free Throw Champion" T-Shirts with the KC Logo. The shirts are solid white with colored lettering. This shirt would provide much exposure in your community for your local council. It is intended to replace a small trophy or plaque as the first place local winner's prize. Since we are dealing with 9 - 14 year olds, I would suggest that the following shirt sizes be ordered: 3 small, 4 medium, 4 large, and 1 x-large. All shirts are in adult sizes and are excellent quality with a 50/50 material blend. Medallions will continue to be given out to the district champions and trophies to all who make it to the state finals.

All orders must be submitted by November 15th. Please enclose a council check made payable to the South Dakota Knights of Columbus in the amount of \$105. Shirts will be given to the District Deputies in early December for delivery to the individual councils. Due to time constraints with the printer, it is imperative to have all orders in on time. Any orders received after November 15th will be responsible for any extra setup charges and postage so please get your order in on time.

Please indicate how many of each size you want and return by November 15th. Enclose a check for \$105 made payable to SD Knights of Columbus. Mail this order form and your check to John Cihak, 1806 First Street, Tyndall, SD 57066.

Please fill out entirely.

Small_____ Medium_____ Large_____ X-Large_____

Council Name: _____

Council Number: _____

Name of District Deputy: _____

Your Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

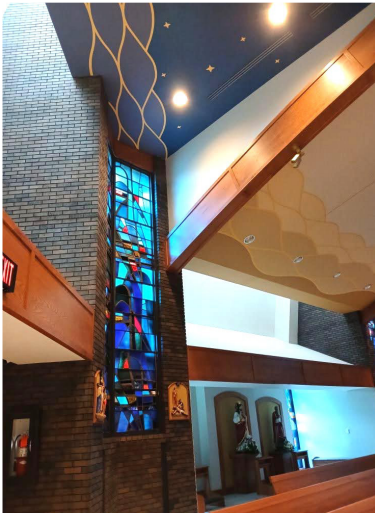
Email Address: _____



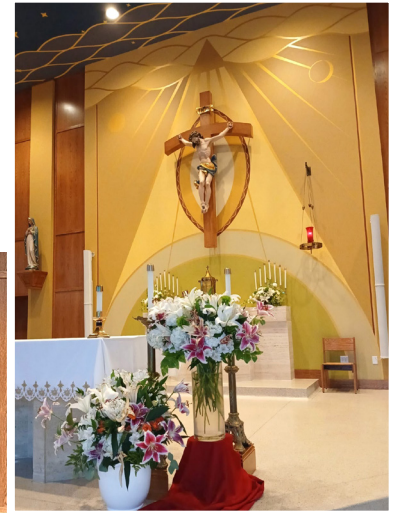
Thad Liebig, PSD KC Foundation

Yankton's Sacred Heart Parish held their Dedication Mass with Bishop DeGrood on Sunday, September 14th, 10:00 AM. This project was two years in the making as the inside

was completely renovated, creating a brighter presence. Sacred Heart parishioners held Mass across the street in Link Auditorium since September 2023. The doors were opened by Bishop DeGrood, letting people in for this Dedication Mass. There were 32 Altar Services for this Mass. An Honor Guard was provided by Marty Assembly 1080 with help from several area Assemblies in Hartford, Madison, Sioux Falls (Marquette and Bishop Dudley), Hartington NE. After Mass, an outdoor catered picnic by Fry'n Pan was held on the street with music played by Charis. It was fabulous celebration and is great to get back into Sacred Heart Church.



Dedication Mass at Sacred Heart Parish, Yankton



Those participating in the Honor Guard, Back Row from Left: Tim Fanta (Yankton), David Schiefen (Yankton), Rich Larson DD (Yankton). Upper Middle Row from Left: Nick Weydert (Yankton), John Cihak (Tyndall), David Vellek DD (Springfield), Joe Holkup (Sioux Falls-Marquette), Keith Goeden DD (Crofton, NE), Thad Liebig PSD (Yankton), Martin Saffel (Sioux Falls-Bishop Dudley), Roger Hejl (Yankton). Lower Middle Row from Left: Jeff Gillen, State Treasurer (Sioux Falls-Bishop Dudley), Paul Lambert PSD (Madison), Kevin Buhl (Yankton). Front Row from Left: Fr. Joe Forcelle Past State Chaplain, District Marshall Greg Boggs (Hartford), St Martin of Tours Pastor Tom Anderson, Bishop of Sioux Falls Diocese His Excellency Robert DeGrood, Dan Johnson, State Deputy (Sioux Falls-Bishop Dudley), District Master Gerry Dvorak (Hartford), Marcel Kramer (Crofton, NE), Donne Munson (Sioux Falls-Marquette), and Fr. Bob Lacey. Not Pictured, but participated in the Liturgy are Fr. Darin Schmidt and Fr. Thi Pham.

The House of Mary Shrine in Yankton Landscape Renovation Project and Call for Support

Brief History and Features:

The House of Mary Shrine (Shrine) is located six miles west of Yankton, SD, along State Hwy 52 and sits on approximately 45 acres of land.



Three Crosses at top of Bluff

The Shrine began its development when Ed and Jean English purchased land bordering Lewis and Clark Lake in 1957 to build a home. A priest told them to "save a portion for God." In 1971, a group of individuals dedicated to Mary, called the Rosary Makers, began meeting monthly in a cottage on the property to make and distribute rosaries throughout the world.

They developed a plan to have three large crosses erected atop the bluff and later that year, they were inspired to develop a shrine to honor not only God but also his Blessed Mother. A committee met with Bishop Lambert Hoch, of Sioux Falls, SD, to inform him of the plan and the bishop granted them permission and offered his approval. Thereafter, they began calling this site "The House of Mary Shrine." Since 1971, the Shrine has grown and developed through work of volunteers and generous donations to become a prominent Marian Shrine in SD. Also, the Bishops of the Sioux Falls Dioceses have spiritually supported the Shrine.

A landmark feature at the House of Mary Shrine is the Chapel of St. Joseph, built in 1978 of rough hued lumber from northern Minnesota to blend into the surrounding area. In-

side, the rustic chapel houses the Blessed Sacrament. It is open daily for quiet prayer, meditation, and reflection. Other features at the Shrine include three giant wooden crosses atop the bluff, the original House of Mary, and a Rosary Way. The Rosary Way consists of a large 15-decade wooden rosary that winds through the trees. Additional features are the Way of the Cross, Holy Innocents Garden, Way of the Saints, meditation areas, Veteran's Memorial, museum, gift shop, statues, and more. The House of Mary Shrine attracts visitors from across the country and beyond. You may have seen our display tables at the Knights of Columbus 121st State Convention, April 25-27, 2025, in Sioux Falls, SD.

The calendar of annual activities at the House of Mary Shrine include; Easter Sunrise Service that recalls the stations of the cross along the path leading to the three large crosses at the top of the hill, May Crowning of Mary, candle-lite Rosary Rally in October, and Holy Innocents Vigil in December. Currently, priests continue to say mass on the third Saturday of each month at 8:30 am and the Chaplet of Divine Mercy is prayed prior to the mass starting at 7:50 am. Additionally, the Patriot Rosary is recited weekly on Sundays at 4:00 pm.

Landscape Renovation Project:

Over time, some of the original features have begun to deteriorate, despite efforts to maintain them, and need to be upgraded or replaced. One such feature is the Heart-shaped Rosary Pond built in 1975 and surrounding rock and mortar retaining wall. After the Rosary Pond began leaking, epoxy coating was applied and then a new liner was installed. Unfortunately, neither solution resolved the leaks." Also, the retaining wall and narrow sidewalk around the pond have

(Continued on next page)



Chapel of St. Joseph



Mary House

House of Mary Shrine *(continued from previous page)*

deteriorated. This is the area most people see first when arriving at the Shrine.

Given these unsuccessful repair attempts and the pond's prominent location, it became clear that a more comprehensive solution was needed. We have undertaken a major landscape improvement project to remove the rosary pond and surrounding retaining wall and sidewalk and replace it with a heart-shaped paver rosary walkway that is 6-foot wide. Inside the heart, there will be a triple-boulder water feature consisting of three large stones with water flowing over them to create a tranquil focal point. A boulder retaining wall will be installed behind the walkway. A rosary made of one-piece metal rods topped with beads connected by a chain will be installed along the inside edge of the walkway. The design retains the founders' initial vision for the rosary pond. The walkway evokes the rosary, and the overall shape symbolizes the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Additionally, the walkway will accommodate the elderly and handicapped. This transformation aims to create a more inviting and serene environment for visitors, encouraging reflection and prayer while minimizing maintenance obligations.

Donations can be sent by check to:

The House of Mary Shrine
PO Box 455
Yankton, SD 57078

If you or your council have questions and/or interested in volunteering, please contact us through email: thehouseofmaryshrine@gmail.com or give us a call at 605-668-0121. We invite you to visit us online at www.houseofmaryshrine.org or on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com>thehouseofmaryshrine>

The areas along the privacy fence and around the Mary House will be re-landscaped with river rock, concrete edging, and attractive perennials. This combination will create a low-maintenance, visually appealing border that welcomes visitors to the Mary House.

Request for Support:

The cost of this project is approximately \$56,000. We are seeking donations from all councils to be a part of this worthy project to honor our Mother Mary, and to help keep Mary's work alive in SD and in the world. This project aligns with the statewide Knights of Columbus Marian Theme for 2025-2026 fraternal year and is a Service Project set forth by worthy State Deputy Dan Johnson. The House of Mary Shrine does not receive financial support from the diocese; and the operation, maintenance, and upkeep are through donations and a dedicated group of volunteers. The Yankton Marty Council 1536 supports the House of Mary Shrine through yearly donations and assistance with the Shrine's annual benefit breakfast.



Drawing of landscaping by fence and Mary House



Ground work for rosary walkway



Drawing of rosary walkway

Exemplifications



Marty Assembly 1080 hosted an Exemplification of Patriotism on Sunday, Sept 7th with eight new Sir Knights joining the 4th Degree that day. Congratulations to all!!! Having family present and part of the Knighting is a terrific addition.

Pictured Standing Row from Left: David Schiefen, Nick Weydert, Tim Fanta, District Master Gerry Dvorak from Hartford, New Sir Knights John Lichter, Leon Kathol, Dave Kriens, Todd Belgum, Gail Gubbels, Ken Thoene, Don Suing, John Brown, District Marshall Greg Boggs, Donne Munson, and Rich Larson. Sitting row from Left: Andy Henrickson, Roger Hejl, Thad Liebig, and Paul Lambert.

Sir Knights Nick Weydert, Tim Fanta, Donne Munson, and Rich Larson served as Honor Guard for the day. Sir Knights Andy Henrickson, Roger Hejl, Thad Liebig, Paul Lambert, and DM Gerry Dvorak served as the Degree Team for the day.

New Sir Knights joining Marty Assembly 1080 (which includes the Yankton, BonHomme, Wagner, and Freeman councils) are: John Lichter, Leon Kathol, Todd Belgum, Gail Gubbels, Don Suing, and John Brown.

New Sir Knight joining Hartford Assembly 3645 is Dave Kriens.

New Sir Knight joining Norfolk, NE Assembly 606 is Ken Thoene.



On Sunday August 10th Maher Council 1079 added one new member to their council: Chad Lorenzen. A picnic lunch was served after the Exemplification.

Vivat Jesus!

Custer Council 4984

On August 3rd-5th members of Council 4984 in Custer held their Annual Burger and Brats fundraiser just outside of Custer at the Gold Valley Campground to help raise funds to give to three graduating seniors from Custer High school.



KNIGHT LIFE

Rapid City Council 8025

A SPOTLIGHT ON KC COUNCIL ACTIVITIES AROUND THE STATE

Council 8025 in Rapid City held our first of two weekend Tootsie Roll Fundraising Drives on August 16th and 17th at Fleet Farm, Runnings and Timmons Market in Rapid City and Lynn's Dakotamart in Box Elder. We moved the event from October to August in hopes there would be more foot traffic during the Central States Fair and we would be able to give away more Tootsie Rolls. In all we had twenty-five Knights put in a approximately fifty-five hours over the course of the two days and were able to raise \$2,387. We aren't sure if we gave away more candy or not, but from the looks of it, it just wasn't the little kids that were glad to see us in our yellow vests again this year. We will be at these same stores again in September.



KNIGHT LIFE

A SPOTLIGHT ON KC COUNCIL ACTIVITIES AROUND THE STATE

Splitrock Council 13400

The Knights of Columbus, Splitrock Council 13400, comprised from members of Risen Savior in Brandon, SD and St Rose of Lima in Garretson, SD, hosted the Punt, Pass and Kick in Brandon SD, during the School's Pig Skin Classic.

We had 59 participants, ages 7 to 12, boys and girls. Each age group for Boys and each age group for girls, the top three with longest distance received 1st, 2nd and 3rd place trophies.

Each participant punted the football, passed the Football and kicked the football, for accuracy and distance. The participants are penalized for how far off center the ball landed. The spot where the ball landed was measured for distance and the amount of feet off center was deducted. The overall distance minus accuracy penalties, for all three for Punt, Pass and Kick were added together to determine the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place.

Pig Skin Classic, is the first home football game for the Brandon Valley High School. The Pig Skin Classic is an all-day event for the community, with fundraising booths for the Athletic department and numerous games for the kids.

Punt, Pass and Kick was affiliated with the NFL. When the NFL ended their affiliation with Punt Pass and Kick, the Brandon Valley Athletic Boosters wanted to keep this event going as a local event for the Community as part of the Pig Skin classic but could not get help, so the Boosters asked the Splitrock Council 13400 to running the event. The Knights have been running this for the past four years.



KNIGHT

A SPOTLIGHT ON KC COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

LIFE AROUND THE STATE

Rapid City Eucharistic Procession

A Eucharistic Procession was held in Rapid City on June 22nd in honor of the Feast of Corpus Christi. Many priests, deacons, religious sisters, and seminarians walked the complete route of two miles from Our Lady of Perpetual Help Cathedral to Memorial Park, along with almost 500 faithful Catholics from eight local parishes.

Approximately thirty-five members from Our Lady of Perpetual Help Council 1489, St Therese Council 8025, and Blessed Sacrament Council 8844 of Rapid City and Our Lady of the Black Hills Council 7079 of Piedmont joined forces to help with and participate in the Procession as well as to feed the hungry crowd at the park when it was over.

Council 1489 was in charge of setting up the picnic tables and crowd control during the Procession while Council 8025 purchased the food and delivered it to the park along with the 800 hot dogs they grilled up. Both of these councils then helped Councils 8844 and 7079 with the long serving lines and cleanup afterwards.

