

BADGER BULLETIN

AUGUST 2026



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August: A Month Honoring Mary



AS A PARISH PRIEST, I notice how busy families can be during the summer months. While certain parishioners seem to be ever-present in the parish, younger families often take vacations during the summer, including the month of August. Things settle down toward the end of the month as we prepare

to enter another school year.

During this month of August, I would like to bring our attention to two celebrations of Mary the Mother of God and our Mother in the order of grace. An expression of the Church, “Lex orandi lex credendi” (the law of praying is the law of believing), is a reminder that what the Catholic Church teaches is expressed in the liturgical texts and that the liturgical expression helps to form us in our own understanding of the Church’s doctrines.

Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (August 15)

The Assumption of Mary into heavenly glory is integrally linked to the dogma of the Immaculate Conception. We read in the Catechism of the Catholic Church (n. 966):

“[T]he Immaculate Virgin, preserved free from all stain of original sin, when the course of her earthly life was finished, was taken up body and soul into heavenly glory, and exalted by the Lord as Queen over all things, so that she might be the more fully conformed to her Son, the Lord of lords and conqueror of sin and death. The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin is a singular participation in her Son’s Resurrection and an anticipation of the resurrection of other Christians.”

The dogma of the Assumption of Mary, defined by Pope Pius XII in his Apostolic Constitution, *Munificentissimus Deus* (Nov. 1, 1950), does not specify exactly how Mary’s earthly life came to its completion. This is because Roman Catholics tend to state that Mary chose to die, whereas Eastern Rite Catholics speak of the dormition of our Lady. Since Mary is the Immaculate Conception, she was not to endure the corruption of the grave. She was taken up, body and soul, into heaven as a singular participation in her Son’s Resurrection. Mary’s bodily participation in heavenly glory provides us with great hope that, at the end of time, the Lord Jesus will raise

our own bodies into heavenly glory.

The Solemnity of the Assumption is of particular significance to me. It was on the Feast of the Assumption, 1977, that I received my first Holy Communion at St Lawrence O’Toole Parish in Forbes, New South Wales, Australia.

Memorial of the Queenship of Mary (August 22)

The Queenship of Mary was, until recent years, celebrated on May 31. It was during the close of the Marian year of 1954, a celebration of the 100th anniversary of the proclamation of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception, that Pope Pius XII promulgated his Encyclical Letter, *Ad Caeli Reginam*, ‘Proclaiming the Queenship of Mary’. We read in his letter references to Christ as King and Mary as Queen:

“From the earliest ages of the Catholic Church a Christian people, whether in time of triumph or more especially in time of crisis, has addressed prayers of petition and hymns of praise and veneration to the Queen of Heaven. And never has that hope wavered which they placed in the Mother of the Divine King, Jesus Christ; nor has that faith ever failed by which we are taught that Mary, the Virgin Mother of God, reigns with a mother’s solicitude over the entire world, just as she is crowned in heavenly blessedness with the glory of a Queen.” (*Ad Caeli Reginam*, n. 1).

It was on the Feast of the Queenship of Mary, August 22, 2022, that I made my third pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Champion. I brought some parishioners from St Mary Help of Christians Parish, Colby, and we had a faith-filled journey to Wisconsin’s own site of pilgrimage that has the same ecclesiastical status as other shrines such as Lourdes, Fatima and Our Lady of Guadalupe.

I would like to make an appeal to the Knights of Columbus in our great State of Wisconsin. Please advertise our upcoming pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Champion. We will be gathering there on Sunday, October 25, 2026. Information about this pilgrimage will be sent to your local council. This pilgrimage promises to be a most important event for us and our families as a means of our own ongoing formation in the faith and for the New Evangelization that Christ desires as the continuation of the mission of the Church for the salvation of souls.

Mary, our Queen assumed into heaven, pray for us!

Vivat Jesus!

Are You Even Catholic, *Bro*?



BROTHERS, IN FRATERNAL 2026, we are called to be Catholic men who are willing to be visible, joyful, and faithful. The world does not need lukewarm disciples who keep their faith hidden only for Sunday morning. Our parishes, families, and communities need men who are publicly

Catholic: men who pray before meals, speak respectfully about the Church, defend life and human dignity, support our priests, and show by their actions that Jesus Christ is the center of their lives.

The mission of the Knights of Columbus is to help Catholic men put faith into action through Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism. Our Order encourages men to serve their families, parishes, and communities through programs of faith, family, community, and life. This is not simply an organizational structure; it is a way of living our baptismal call. When we plan a program, organize a church drive, invite a man to join, or conduct an exemplification, we are not just filling a calendar. We are building up the Body of Christ.

First, let us recommit ourselves to being servants to our priests. Our priests carry heavy responsibilities. They preach, teach, administer the sacraments, visit the sick, comfort grieving families, guide parish staff, and carry the spiritual needs of an entire community. A strong Council should ask one simple question again and again: "Father, how can we help?" Sometimes the answer may be a parish cleanup day, help with a procession, ushers for a liturgy, support for a parish meal, assistance with faith formation, or a renewed presence at Eucharistic adoration. Whatever the need, Knights should be ready.

Second, let us plan programs with purpose. A successful Council does not wait until the last minute or depend on the same few men every time. We should look ahead, set dates, assign tasks, communicate clearly, and invite every Brother to take part according to his gifts/talents. Some men can lead. Some can make phone calls. Some can cook, lift, drive, greet, pray, or simply show up faithfully. Every Brother has something to offer.

Third, let us make church drives a regular part of Council life. A well-organized drive can include gathering food for families, coats for children, supplies for mothers and babies, support for seminarians, or funds for parish needs. Just as important, a drive gives parishioners a visible sign that the Knights are present, active, and ready to serve. It also gives Catholic men an easy invitation to step forward: "Come help us, come be a Knight."

Finally, let us prioritize Exemplifications. If we believe the Knights can help men grow in faith, then we must invite them. Membership is not about numbers for their own sake. It is about strengthening men, supporting families, and giving the parish dependable Catholic servants. Every program should include an invitation. Every church drive should include a program. Each of us should be willing to ask another good Catholic man to join us. Imagine if all 600,000 Catholic men in Wisconsin were Sir Knights? Remember that the Council meeting is the best time to encourage Brothers to become Sir Knights in the 4th Degree.

Brothers, let us be known not only by the emblem on our shirts, but by the faith in our hearts and the service at our hands. Let us stand publicly as Catholic men, humbly as servants to our priests, and actively as planners of programs, church drives, and exemplifications. Our parish needs us. Our priests need us. Our families need us. Christ is calling us. Let us answer together.

Vivat Jesus!

Looking Ahead With Gratitude and Purpose



AS WE BEGIN THE MONTH of August and look back on the fraternal year just completed, I want to offer my sincere thanks to every council officer, district deputy, program director, membership team member, field agent, and Brother Knight

across Wisconsin. Your dedication, countless volunteer hours, prayerful leadership, and steady service helped strengthen our councils, parishes, families, and communities throughout the past year.

The good work accomplished in the past fraternal year did not happen by accident. It happened because Knights stepped forward, made plans, invited others to join, carried out programs with purpose, protected the vulnerable, promoted fraternity, and kept our Catholic faith at the center of all we do. For that, I am deeply grateful.

Now is the time for each council to build strong, practical plans for the 2026–2027 fraternal year. A successful year begins with intentional planning, clear communication, and a shared commitment to action. As council leaders meet and prepare their calendars, I encourage you to make sure your plans include the key areas that will help your council grow and thrive.

Membership must remain a priority. Every Catholic man deserves to be invited into the faith, fraternity, and service of the Knights of Columbus. Set goals, schedule membership drives, promote exemplifications, and make personal invitations part of your council culture. Growth is strongest when every member sees himself as part of the invitation.

Programs should put our faith into action in visible and meaningful ways. Build a balanced calendar that supports Faith, Family, Community, and Life. Choose activities that meet real needs in your parish and community, involve families, and give members opportunities to serve with joy and purpose.

Cor offers councils a powerful opportunity to help Catholic men grow in prayer, formation, and fraternity. If your council has already begun Cor, continue building on that foundation. If you have not yet started, make this the year to explore how Cor can strengthen the men of your parish and deepen their relationship with Christ.

Youth Protection must be included in every council's planning. Our service to young people carries a sacred responsibility. Please make sure required training, safe environment procedures, and proper reporting expectations are understood and followed so that our activities remain safe, welcoming, and worthy of the trust placed in us.

Fraternal Benefits are also an important part of our mission. Encourage members and their families to learn about the protection, financial security, and member benefits available through the Order. Work closely with your field agent, invite him to council events, and help ensure that families know the resources available to them.

Brother Knights, Wisconsin councils have a proud tradition of faithful service, and we have every reason to look forward with confidence. Thank you again for all you did during the past fraternal year. Let us carry that momentum into 2026–2027 with renewed energy, thoughtful planning, and a shared desire to serve God, our Church, and our neighbors.

We look forward to another great year for the Wisconsin Knights of Columbus.

Vivat Jesus!



AS YOUR STATE TREASURER, I write with a simple but important request: please ensure your council's per capita is paid promptly and in full.

Per capita is more than an assessment—it is a tangible expression of our fraternal commitment to one another. Each council's contribution supports the work we

accomplish together across Wisconsin. These funds help sustain State Council operations, support programs for our members and their families, strengthen charitable outreach, and ensure we continue to live the principles of Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism.

When councils pay their per capita on time, we can plan responsibly, meet our obligations to Supreme, and invest confidently in the initiatives that benefit all Wisconsin Knights. These include membership growth and retention, faith-based programs, family and youth activities, leadership development, and the many charitable works that define our Order.

Conversely, delayed or incomplete payments create unnecessary challenges and may limit our ability to provide consistent support to every council, regardless of size or location.

I am grateful to the many councils that have already fulfilled this obligation. Your

commitment strengthens our jurisdiction and demonstrates true fraternity in action.

For councils that have not yet submitted payment, I respectfully ask that you make this a priority. Please review your membership records, complete the necessary forms, and remit payment as soon as possible. If your council is experiencing genuine financial difficulty, I encourage you to contact us promptly so that we can discuss practical solutions before the matter becomes a burden.

The strength of our Order depends on every council doing its part. Paying per capita is one of the clearest ways we demonstrate our shared commitment to the mission and future of the Knights of Columbus in Wisconsin.

Thank you for your leadership, your service to your parishes and communities, and your dedication to our Order. May God continue to bless your councils and the important work you do.

Vivat Jesus!



AS PART OF OUR ONGOING commitment to protect the vulnerable and uphold the highest standards of care, all newly installed Grand Knights, Program Directors, Family Directors, and Community Directors across Wisconsin have recently, or will soon receive an

important email from Praesidium Academy. This message invites you to onboard and begin the Safe Environment training: Preventing Abuse and Protecting Those We Serve.

Please watch for this email carefully. Depending on your email provider, it may be

filtered into your Junk or Spam folder. Every leader in these roles is required to complete the training, so timely action is essential.

If you do not receive the onboarding email by August 15, you may still [access the training directly](#). Sign in using the email address listed on your council's Form 185 or Form 365. If you cannot log in, select "Forgot Password" to reset your credentials.

Your diligence ensures that our councils remain safe, trustworthy, and fully compliant with Supreme's Safe Environment Program. Thank you for your leadership and your commitment to protecting those we serve.

Vivat Jesus!



MY TERM AS YOUR State Deputy ended on June 30th, but one of my State Deputy commitments to you when elected was to ensure that training would be provided to as many new and existing Officers and Committee members as possible and my commitment to that goal has not ended on June 30th.

With the Worthy State Deputy's approval, We will be reactivating the role of State Director of Training for Wisconsin.

The last time this position was utilized was in the fraternal year 2010–2012 and it's time to bring it back.

A high-level view of what this role will attempt to put in place as we move forward.

First 90 days "Build the Team" **July 1–October 1.**

- > **1. Recruit two men per diocese to function as Diocesan Trainers.**
 - a. Potentially considering current seasoned Financial Secretaries in each of the five dioceses experienced in the areas of officers online functionality and Excel usage and their willingness to share that knowledge with new and existing council and district officers.
 - b. Ensure that these trainers have the training and resources available to function in their role.
- > **2. Identify a priority list of areas and positions for training.**
 - a. GK, FS, DD's their usage & understanding of the features in Officers Online
 - b. Their knowledge in proper council protocol and council meetings that attract attendance.
 - c. How using online report will make their roles easier and more enjoyable and completed early.



Sir Knights from Wisconsin's Eastern and Western Districts stand together in honor of U.S. Army PFC Elmer Blonien, a World War II veteran and survivor of the Bataan Death March. United in faith, patriotism, and service, they demonstrate the strength of the Fourth Degree and our shared commitment to building a stronger Order—together.

> **3. Determine what formats should be the initial focus of training.**

- a. One on One Individual Training format at council level when possible.
- b. Group training within districts based on experience levels
 - > Separate training for new council officers
 - > Separate training for more experienced officers
- c. Virtual Training vs In Person formats when geographic travel or weather is an issue.
- d. Training formats for diocesan tours and DD Organizational meetings.

What is the reason and Why are we offering this training?

Many individuals have accepted their roles without receiving the full training necessary to fully support their ability to fulfill accomplish their obligations on a timely & efficient basis.

With Supreme & the State moving to online reporting only vs manual reporting which will make everyone's role easier. These individuals need to know how to use online reporting and we want to provide that skill level to all that we can going forward.

If you are interested in being considered for this new and exciting team of trainers contact me and we can discuss it in more detail.

Once our training team is established, more information will follow as to how to apply for various types of training for your individual positions.

Vivat Jesus!



AS OF JUNE 18, Wisconsin has brought in 749 new e-members this fraternal year. This represents growth of over 17% this year. As a state, we continue to transfer 74% of these e-members into Active Councils, one of the best conversion rates in the order. Thank you to all of the Councils that are using e-

membership to bring in their new members.

We currently have 154 e-members from the 2025-2026 fraternal year that have not yet been transferred into Councils. As we start the new Fraternal Year, I encourage all Councils to review their Prospect List (e-members) and Candidate Lists and bring in as many new members as possible. Bringing these new members into your Council will get you a fast start on meeting your McGivney Awards goal. While in person exemplifications are preferred, if schedules are not working out, please use the On-Demand Online Exemplification to get these brothers into your Councils and then invite them to get involved.

REMINDERS

WGK & WFS please frequently review your councils **Prospect** tab. Should you experience any difficulty with this process, please email me regarding these outstanding assigned e-members and I will gladly assist you.

Do not send Form 100's to Supreme for new members. Keep them for your council's records. If you must use a Form 100, scan it, email it to Supreme, and keep the original for your council records. Since Form 100's must be manually processed at Supreme, they can lead to data entry errors and delays. Utilizing e-membership or the **Candidate** tab for new members are the preferred ways to bring in new members. **The date field is the date they were exemplified by your council. Once you enter those dates in either tab, the members will be automatically transferred to your council's roster within the next week.**

If you have any questions or concerns, contact me. I am in your State Directory.

Vivat Jesus!

PROSPECT TAB

Shows you e-members that have joined online via the Supreme app. The date field is used to transfer them into your council when they have completed their exemplification. With e-membership, new members enter their own data and confirm their membership, and then they receive an e-mail from Supreme. These e-members are then part of the state council, and get assigned to a local council. Until the local FS enters the exemplification date, these members remain part of the State Council. Local councils get credit for them when the exemplification date is entered by the FS to transfer them into your Council.

Clicking on this blue box will take you to the Prospect training.

CANDIDATE TAB

Used when you recruit a member locally or are handling a member transfer request or a reinstatement of a prior member. The Candidate tab can best be described as an online Form 100. The candidate tab training covers new members and transfers into local councils.

Clicking on this red box will take you to the candidate training.

ONLINE CEREMONIAL

Click on this box to take you to the **Online Ceremonial** invitation site.



SPOTLIGHT



CHAMPION SHRINE SERVICE PROJECT

SK JACK WRBANICH
EASTERN WISCONSIN DISTRICT MASTER

MORE THAN 40 KNIGHTS, Ladies, and family members from Wisconsin's Eastern District answered the call to serve during the Catholic Saints of America celebration held July 5 at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion.

The event, part of the Shrine's nine-day observance commemorating America's 250th anniversary, welcomed pilgrims from

across the region to celebrate the lives of American saints, blessed, venerables, and servants of God while honoring the 130th anniversary of the death of Servant of God Adele Brice.

The Fourth Degree Honor Guard provided ceremonial support for Holy Mass celebrated by Bishop David Ricken and accompanied the prayer procession to the grave of Adele Brice, offering a visible witness to the Order's principles of Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism.

Pilgrims also had the opportunity to venerate the relic of Blessed Michael J. McGivney, founder of the Knights of Columbus, a fitting reminder of Father McGivney's vision of Catholic men united in faith and service.

The day's service extended far beyond the Honor Guard. Sir Knights, their wives, and volunteers staffed the All-American Picnic, welcomed visitors at the Knights of Columbus membership table, and assisted

pilgrims throughout the day. Together, they demonstrated that the Knights of Columbus serve not only through ceremonial presence but also through hospitality and acts of charity.

Special thanks are extended to SK Ray Berres, Green Bay Diocesan Director and District Deputy, and SK Karl Schroeder, Northern Eastern District Marshal, whose leadership and behind-the-scenes coordination helped ensure the Knights' support was a success. Appreciation is also extended to State Deputy Ross Larson and State Advocate James Vosters for joining the celebration and showing their support.

Events like this remind us that the Fourth Degree is about more than the uniform—it is about answering the call to serve the Church whenever and wherever needed. Whether standing in formation, serving a meal, greeting pilgrims, or helping behind the scenes, every volunteer played an important role in making the day a success.

Vivat Jesus!

PICTURE: More than 40 Knights, Ladies, and family members from Wisconsin's Eastern District gathered at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion to support the Catholic Saints of America celebration. The Fourth Degree Honor Guard, volunteers, and families provided ceremonial support, hospitality, and service throughout the day, demonstrating the Knights of Columbus' commitment to Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism.

Building A Stronger Order—Together

THE FUTURE OF THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS will not be determined solely by the programs we hold or the meetings we attend. It will be shaped by the men we invite, the leaders we mentor, and the example we leave behind.

Every generation of Knights of Columbus inherits something precious: our faith, the principles of Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism, and an Order built by Catholic men who understood that leadership begins with service. Our responsibility is not only to honor that legacy, but to prepare the next generation to carry it forward.

As District Masters, we have the privilege of visiting Assemblies across Wisconsin. While every Assembly is unique, one truth remains constant: healthy councils build healthy assemblies, and both are strengthened by a culture of invitation.

That culture begins with personally inviting Catholic men to join our councils. Every Knight shares that responsibility. For Sir Knights, however, the journey continues by encouraging worthy Third Degree Knights to embrace the Patriotic Degree. A culture of invitation does not end when a man joins the Order—it continues throughout his life as a Knight.

Just as importantly, we must continue supporting our councils and their Grand Knights. When councils and assemblies work side by side in service to the Church and community, we create an environment where men naturally desire to continue



their journey into the Fourth Degree. Strong councils produce strong assemblies, and together they strengthen our entire Order.

As our nation commemorates America's 250th Anniversary, we are reminded that the Knights of Columbus have always united faith and patriotism. Today, we are called to build upon that legacy by mentoring future leaders, inviting worthy Catholic men into our councils, and encouraging qualified Knights to continue their journey into the Patriotic Degree.

Recently, Sir Knights from the Eastern and Western Districts stood together to honor a World War II veteran, demonstrating that while geography may separate our districts, our mission unites us. Together, we bear witness to our faith, our patriotism, and our commitment to charitable service.

If you know a worthy Third Degree Knight who is ready to take the next step in his journey, now is the time to extend that personal invitation. This fall, exemplifications will be held:

- > Eastern District: September 19, 2026, All Saints Parish, Berlin
- > Western District: October 17, 2026, St. Mary's Catholic Church, Tomah

Whether your invitation leads to one new Sir Knight or many, remember that every invitation matters.

Every invitation strengthens a council. Every Sir Knight strengthens an assembly. Together, we strengthen the future of the Knights of Columbus.

Vivat Jesus!

Evangelization and Faith Formation



THE BEGINNING OF EACH FRATERNAL YEAR is a wonderful time to reflect and pray about why we are members of the Knights of Columbus. To be sure, each of us has his own individual reasons for initially becoming a Knight.

However, over time, as we put our faith into action and grow in fraternity with our brother Knights, we eventually become more informed, and hopefully, more **invested** in the **mission** of our Order. That mission has always been focused on helping Catholic men to grow closer to Jesus Christ and thereby empower them to better serve their families, the Church, and those in need.

Our current Supreme Knight, Patrick Kelly, at the very beginning of his term, called upon all members of the Order to “**refocus**” our mission on **evangelization**. He emphasized this by saying, “Knights must be first in faith, as they are first in charity.” It is important to note that he said to “refocus” not “change” our mission. So, what does this mean in practice for us? It simply means that every council in our state should look for ways to make **every** Faith-In-Action program and activity an **encounter with Jesus Christ** for those who participate. In this way we build disciples of

Jesus.

But there is another very important way we are being asked to refocus our mission on evangelization. And that is through the **Cor** initiative. This initiative was started in Wisconsin about three years ago. It will remain a major focus in our state this year. Cor is a regular gathering of Catholic men (not just Knights) who are focused on prayer, formation, fraternity in a bond of Christ-centered brotherhood. The Order has asked that every council implement Cor in their parishes. If you are not familiar with **Cor** please go to our State Council [website](#). I will also be speaking more about this initiative in future articles.

In addition to Cor, the State EFF team will be working hard this year to provide Cor training and other faith formation experiences such as our upcoming **pilgrimage to Our Lady of Champion on Sunday, October 25**. This event is sponsored by the Wisconsin State Council and is open to all councils in the state, their families and parishes. It is currently scheduled to begin around 10am and concludes about 3:30pm. The day will include Holy Mass and a rosary procession. Be sure to look for registration notifications on the State website in late August or early September.

I look forward working with each of your councils in making disciples of Jesus Christ.
Vivat Jesus!



Knights of
Columbus®
Wisconsin
State Council



Joy
is a winter coat on a snow day.
Give **joy** this season.

COATS FOR KIDS STARTS NOW



NEED HELP WITH ULTRASOUND FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN?

There is a great pro-life organization out in Yelm, Washinton called [4US](#). They will help with 25% of the cost of the ultrasound. **Yes! Half** of your council's obligation! Here's their [website](#).

> We have no Ultrasound Projects going on at this time! Thank you for your support in this area! If you are thinking about heading one up, I have one for you to do **in Uganda!** Contact me [here](#).

WANT TO GET INVOLVED IN PURCHASING A BABY BOX FOR A MILWAUKEE FIREHOUSE?

Contact [Dan Miller](#) for more information.

ASAP GRANTS

We pray that the month of July left your council's checking account **empty** after giving away all your money to pregnancy centers in your area. For every \$500 your council or assembly donates to a pregnancy resource center or maternity home (up to \$2,000), the match it with \$100. But, you have to [apply for it!](#) You only need two forms, a [Donation Receipt Letter](#) and a [W9](#).

CHOOSE LIFE WISCONSIN GRANT FUND

Any pro-life pregnancy center or maternity home can apply for a grant from Choose Life Wisconsin, the Choose Life Plate People! Apply [here](#) any time.

You can also purchase Pro-Life license plates. The more plates we have on the road, the more the pro-life message will be shared, and the more money there will be for the Pregnancy Resource Centers. The extra \$25 you pay for the plate is **tax deductible** if you itemize on Schedule A. More information [here](#).
Vivat Jesus!

JOIN THE FATHER MICHAEL MCGIVNEY GUILD

Honor His Legacy. **Advance** His Cause.
Strengthen Your Faith During the Jubilee Year of Hope.

As the Church celebrates the Jubilee Year of Hope, Catholics everywhere are called to renew their faith and walk more closely with Christ. What better way to respond than by drawing inspiration from our founder, Blessed Michael J. McGivney, who gave his life to strengthening families, building parish communities, and bringing hope to those on the margins.

By joining the Father McGivney Guild, you can (1) support his cause for sainthood and pray for his canonization, (2) deepen your spiritual life through his intercession during this Jubilee of grace, and (3) Publicly witness to our Catholic hope as a member of his spiritual family. Membership is free and open to all who believe in his mission. Guild members receive inspiring newsletters, spiritual reflections, and invitations to special devotions honoring Blessed McGivney. Let's help make our founder a saint.



McGivney Guild Chairman
Jack Wrbanich, PSD



MY GOAL FOR THIS FRATERNAL YEAR is to be as interactive with all of you as possible. Indeed, we are fraternal, and we should take advantage of that! This year, I wish to offer you some practical guidance as

well as some impractical guidance.

|The Practicals

As you have heard and will hear many more times, we firmly request that you consistently report your Faith In Action Programs using the very accessible Fraternal Program Report, Form [#10784](#). We hope that first, this helps you stay well organized and be well informed of the tried and true programs that the Knights have to offer, and second, that the State and Supreme Councils may also be connected with your activity in order to best support you. We have the privilege to host a few Sacred Heart Pilgrim Icons throughout the state ([resources](#)) that we wish to bring to your parish! Additionally, I strongly encourage frequent holy hours together with your community. You can get amazing [resources](#) through the Knights website.

Above all, I am your Faith Director, meaning I will take advantage of the resources available to us to help us all know God our Lord better and to always gaze heavenward. So I encourage you, as brother Knights, to take advantage of these opportunities as low-hanging fruit and reap the benefits!

Please make sure your chaplains are informed of all the options we can provide; the Knights don't exist without the support and cooperation of our

chaplains! Please reach out to your District Deputy or to me at faith@wikofc.org for more information on these programs—again, I want to interact with all of you this year to facilitate the Divine Mission!

|The Impracticals

I suppose the term 'impractical guidance' is an oxymoron. This shows one of the greatest truths of our Faith! As men, we are called to live the life of Jesus Christ, not one of efficiency, convenience, or comfort. How much more so must we do this as Knights of the Lord Jesus!

Our Faith isn't built on programs alone. ("Programs! Programs! Programs!" Sound familiar?) Relationship with Jesus Christ doesn't happen once or twice per month at a parish event. It doesn't just happen in Sunday Mass. It doesn't just happen. You must use these programs as a building block for your faith and for your community, but I exhort you to go deeper than that: pray unceasingly, be a living witness to the life of Jesus Christ!

Finally, August is the month of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Two great Marian feasts are coming up: the Assumption, August 15th, and the Queenship of Mary, August 22nd. These are great opportunities for faith events, but only because they lead us to God our Lord. Before you even think about the Knights of Columbus, contemplate Jesus Christ our King, and the Blessed Virgin Mary our Queen.

Thus you shall live your faith boldly and find your rest in the Sacred Heart through the Immaculate Heart.

Vivat Jesus!

I HOPE YOU ARE ENJOYING your summer and spending lots of quality "Family Time"! I know in the Northeast part of the State we have been experiencing some hot temperatures. One nice thing about these temperatures is you don't have to shovel! We will be shoveling soon enough so please enjoy your summer.



I have copied some very nice information from Supreme for a reference point on how our State preformed this past fraternal year. Included is some of the data collected for "Faith In Action" program.

Below is our States data from last year. I am hopeful that OUR goal should be to surpass these numbers this year:

- > **Food for Families: \$ Donations: \$111,640**
- > **Food for Families: Lbs of food Donated: 106,592**
- > **Number of Coats Donated: 10,896**
- > **RSVP Councils Participating: 127**
- > **RSVP \$ Donations: \$197,453**
- > **ASAP Councils Participating: 67**
- > **ASAP \$ ¹: \$234,045**
- > **Special Olympics Councils Participating: 49**
- > **Special Olympics \$ Donations: \$52,230**

Supreme also encourages every jurisdiction/ State or Province to organize at least one bed-building event with Sleep in Heavenly Peace before the end of the 2026 calendar year!

How will we know if Wisconsin is making progress toward these goals?

Throughout the year, councils will be reporting on their programs to the Supreme Council. They can submit that information in real time through Supremes online Fraternal Program Report. They should also submit applications for Food for Families, RSVP, and ASAP as well as a record of coats purchased.

Based on that data, Supreme will provide State Program Directors with monthly reports highlighting our progress. Please advocate for timely online reporting among our councils. It will make all the difference.

All councils should also strive to earn the Columbian Award, which honors excellence in programs. These guidelines and webinar both explain how to apply for the award, as well as recent updates on how to qualify as there have been some changes with both the Columbian Award and the Founders Award.

As always, continue to promote Food for Families, Family of the Month and other summer Family get togethers such as church picnics. Our Council recently helped our area Catholic school promote an Open House. There are numerous ways to enjoy Family activities especially during these summer months.

As Knights of Columbus we also must promote prayer within our Family. Remember: A family that prays together stays together.

I believe that's all for now. Until we meet again, take care, stay healthy, and may God bless us all.

Vivat Jesus!

The 2025/26 Council Fraternal Yearbook has end and time to start the new recordings for 2026/27 Fraternal Year. This is again a reminder that the books follow the Fraternal Year not the calendar year. If your Council had authored a Digital publication of your history for the 2025/26 Year, please upload to the State file area so your Council works can be praised by others in the order. Submitted digital books, instructions on publication, and upload information can all be found under members section of [State Website](#) along with books Councils have submitted.

Back to the Grind

Joshua Hopper

AUGUST IS A MONTH THAT, at least for teachers like me, brings back a lot of familiar things. It marks the beginning of back-to-school preparations and the new season of fall. Although the new season can mean many different things depending on your particular life circumstances, it feels like a reset for me.

Therefore, I feel like it's fitting to encourage you all to head into this new beginning with a renewed sense of hope and vigor. Here are some ideas you may consider:

- > Start a new devotional
- > Go to confession
- > Join a bible study
- > Begin a Catechism/Bible-in-a-year reading plan (there's no rule that you have to start on January 1st)
- > Start a prayer journal
- > Take a journal to mass and write down the impactful things you can take away from

Father's homily

- > Reconnect with old friends or acquaintances
- > Spend more time with your family
- > Make prayer a daily part of your lives

I believe all of us have the power to make lasting changes in our life if we have the discipline to start. However, the biggest thing I've learned—or more accurately, still learning—is that you don't have an infinite amount of time on this earth. Don't waste time!

You don't need to wait for a new week, month, or year to get started. Start now! Why wait until Sunday to try to get into another prayer routine? Start today.

Right now, my change has been doing Fr. Don Calloway's Consecration to St. Joseph. Next will be to work on getting into a daily habit of prayer. Then, once the school year starts, my plan



SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

- > Keep articles below 500 words.
- > Submit word docs to pr@wikofc.org
- > Send photos separately, clearly labeled, with credits.
- > Prioritize quality content with articles.
- > Proofread thoroughly for spelling and grammar.
- > **Avoid double spaces after periods.**



ON THE COVER: OUR LADY OF HAPPY MEETINGS

Our Lady, Help of Christians, proves true to her name, appearing to heal Magdalene Kade in 1866, along with healing close to a dozen others shortly after. Magdalene was bedridden due to many illnesses, and had a friend who would stay and watch over her. One night, around 4 AM, the Virgin Mary appeared to her, and Magdalene, hardly able to speak before seeing Our Lady, cried out in joy, "Look at that shine! Look at that beauty." Her friends staying with her could not see anything, but Mary, clothed in white and wearing a golden crown, looked at Magdalene and said, "My daughter, now you are healed!" and disappeared. Magdalene was able to immediately jump up and was completely healed. (Source: Ascension Press, all rights reserved).

**In service to One.
In service to all.**

