



Maryland State Council

Newsletter



January 2026

www.kofc-md.org

Volume 2, Issue 7



Make a Difference in Someone's Life



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Maryland State Council Newsletter

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EDITOR'S CORNER

The Maryland State Council Newsletter is formatted to provide you with information and to show you what's getting done and who's doing it. Its purpose is to keep you informed as to Supreme, State and Council aspects of the Knights of Columbus. We also want everyone to know of the good things happening, and perhaps to learn something new along the way about our Church, our Order, and our Founder.

Also, we invite Councils, Chapters, Assemblies, and Fourth Degree elements to submit highlights of their respective accomplishments to the Public Relations Director, Jeff Maynard, (jcmaynard@verizon.net) for posting on our social media



State Chaplain's Message

Fr Donald Grzymski OFM Conv
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I am sure we have all heard the expression “in the year of our Lord” as “in the year of our Lord 2026.” I’m also sure many never reflect on the words or see them as anything but a quaint nod to the Christian calendar. But as disciples, and as Knights, think of the potential of an annual dedication of the New Year to God. Along with that dedication one might make the choice to better share the Gospel, to serve others, to help the Kingdom of God unfold in our midst. It might help us then to sanctify each day through our daily prayers. The Church really presents countless ways to approach doing just this, but two particular ways are by following the temporal and sanctoral Church calendars.

The temporal calendar carries us through the seasons, from Advent, Christmas, Ordinary Time, Lent, Easter and Ordinary Time once again. Using the Scripture readings of the day, and particularly the Gospel readings, it helps us to absorb this holy cycle, and to continually learn from the Lord’s preaching, teaching and miracles.

The sanctoral cycle offers the feast days, special events in the life of Christ or Mary, and the feasts of the saints, celebrated in various degrees of solemnity. Some of these feast days are celebrated by the whole Church, and some are optional by local or particular devotion. We find such variety in the holy women and men, who at varied times, in different places, and in all sorts of vocational calls, have sought to find holiness in their daily lives.

I haven’t made any New Year resolutions for a long time, nor do I rely on those New Year good luck foods (such as pickled herring or black-eyed peas), but I do find the cycles of the Church year provide ample material for prayer, reflection and action. In my Franciscan community’s tradition, at Epiphany we also get a patron saint and inspired saying to reflect upon during the year. You might consider a saint for a special patron this year, and then learn about them, reflect on their lives, and so on.

In a complementary way, if we think of the various programs the Knights promote, some are continuous, but many are seasonal. Again, there is so much present to help us make 2026 a true “year of the Lord.”

Finally, noting that this year is also the 250th anniversary of American independence, we patriotic citizens can help others in appreciating the blessings of our land, in working to correct any of our culture’s errors, and in both thanking God and seeking continued divine providence.

Vivat Jesus!

Fr. Donald

Liturgical Calendar

- 1 Jan SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD
- 2 Jan Saints Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church
- 4 Jan THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
- 5 Jan Saint John Neumann, Bishop
- 11 Jan THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD
- 17 Jan Saint Anthony, Abbot
- 21 Jan Saint Agnes, Virgin and Martyr
- 22 Jan Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children
- 24 Jan Saint Francis de Sales, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
- 26 Jan Saints Timothy and Titus, Bishops
- 28 Jan Saint Thomas Aquinas, Priest and Doctor of the Church



State Deputy's Message

Tony Salvemini

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January certainly will be an exciting month as we go forward into the New Year with the midterm meeting to be held at Cardinal Gibbons Council on January 10th, and the March for Life in Washington DC on January 23rd. As you begin the New Year, set a resolution and achieve your commitment to make a difference in someone's life and be a force for good.

A way to make a difference that will last a lifetime is to offer a man – and thus his family- a membership in the Knights of Columbus. How do you accomplish that? Start by reviewing the general recruiting best practices listed below:

Start with why. Recruiting is an opportunity to build our brotherhood and help our communities. To grow is to be able to expand your service. Your community needs your council now more than ever and your council needs to continually grow to help meet growing needs.

Talk to your pastor. A council that doesn't work with a pastor will struggle. Meet with him regularly. Talk about membership growth and ask him how you can work together. Ask if you can conduct membership drives at the church. Then ask if he will invite men he feels would be a good fit to join your council. Then ask what the council can do for him.

Challenge your members. One of the most effective ways to recruit is a personal invite from a Knight. Challenge each of your members to bring in one new Knight this fraternal year. Everyone knows someone who should join our Order.

Schedule church drives. Our Church Drive Program is helping councils bring in an average of three new members per drive. If you're not familiar with the program, review the Church Drive Checklist to find the steps to organizing a successful Church Drive for your council.

Set clear expectations on promoting membership. Every fish fry, every pancake breakfast, every charitable activity, every event that draws a crowd is an opportunity to ask a man to join. These events are concrete proof of your council's good works. Talk about membership at every event during the next year.

Step outside of your comfort zone. We hear a lot of stories from men who waited decades for someone to ask them to join the Knights. All it took was a personal invite. Go beyond your everyday circle. Talk with parishioners at Mass. Be visible. Reach out to the young and old. Reach out to all ministries and ethnic groups in your parish.

Grand Knights and District Deputies, make your plans for your Councils to attend the Founders Day Mass, Dinner and Awards Ceremony on March 22nd.

District Deputies and Grand Knights, as a reminder, if any officer in your council(s) needs assistance with log in access to any of the following, please contact:

Trouble Logging into Officers Online? - [Customer Service \(800\) 380-9995](#)

Submitting or Editing State 365 - [FraternaMission@kofc.org](#)

Trouble Logging in to Teams/SharePoint - [FraternaMission@kofc.org](#)

Vivat Jesus,

Tony



Greetings from the First Lady of the Maryland State Council

Kathy Salvemini
kathykofc@gmail.com - 301-758-4100



Hello, Amazing Ladies of Maryland!

I hope you each had a wonderful Christmas with love and laughter from family and friends, and are entering the new year with hearts filled with new, cherished memories.

Thank you to everyone who attended the State Christmas Party and gave so generously to the Apostleship of the Sea shoebox program! You made a big difference to many seafarers who are stuck on their ships during Christmas. Your thoughtfulness warms my heart, and I appreciate each of you.

Many in the State family will be gathering on January 10th for the Midterm Meeting. I'm hoping for excellent attendance from the wives of those required to attend. If your husband forgot to share my letter about the day with you, please let me know.

January is National Blood Donor Month. The holidays and cold weather illnesses disrupt the availability of blood for critical illnesses, and the need is great. I know many councils will be sponsoring local blood drives, and many of you are already signed up to serve as volunteers. Thank you for supporting this important cause.

The 53rd National March for Life will be held in Washington, D.C., on January 23rd. Knights and their families across the state have a tradition of participating in this annual event. This year's theme is "Life is a Gift". This theme invites everyone to embrace life as something to be cherished and celebrated. A wonderful concept for those marching and those staying closer to home.

As always, thank you for everything you do for your loved ones and the Knights of Columbus to ***Make a Difference in Someone's Life and Be a Force for Good!***

Kathy



Training Message

Rob Van Rite

JTCoulton@gmail.com (301) 910-4524/(301) 805-0091



If you haven't done so already, add "training" to one of the four inevitabilities of life. This is not a bad thing. Whereas, STAPLES has its EASY button ("That was Easy!") Maryland Knights have an EASY link: each one coming with a money back guarantee! These links will help you to realize your desired end state. Use one... use them all. They're FREE!

Training Can Make a Difference in Someone's Life!

How to Find the Fraternal Training That's Right for You

Visit kofc.org/training to find online training for state, council, district and assembly officers, as well as important instruction for handling Operations (including Administration, Finances and Forms), Growth & Retention, and Programs & Engagement.

We recently added 6 new topics for District Deputies and 9 new topics for Grand Knights.

District Deputy:

[District Administration](#)

[District Communications](#)

[District Meetings](#)

[District Reports](#)

[Managing District Growth](#)

[Road to Star District](#)

Grand Knight:

[Administration](#)

[Communications](#)

[Delegation](#)

[Interacting with the District Deputy and Field Agent](#)

[Managing Growth](#)

[Managing Programs](#)

[The Road to Star Council](#)

[Safe Environment Program](#)

[Working with Your Pastor](#)

Not sure which training is right for you? Go to our helpful list of [Suggested Training by Office](#) to find out what is recommended for your officer position. Training is reviewed on a continuing basis, so you will always get the most up-to-date information. Best of all, these on-demand sessions are available to view at any time, on your own schedule, and the average length of each session is only 30 minutes!

Vivat Jesus,

Rob



Council Growth

Terry Waters
tejowat12127@outlook.com - (571)-269-5097



Membership



Happy New Year, Brother Knights!

I hope you and your families enjoyed a wonderful Christmas and took time to recharge your spiritual batteries! The holidays too often are packed with commitments, expectations and chaos and sometimes it's good to simply stop and catch our breath.

And now that we have reached the midpoint of our fraternal year, I thought it would be refreshing to stop and share a few facts regarding membership growth in Maryland. We are doing well and still have many exciting opportunities to build on our successes! So, here we go...

Over 500 men responded by saying "yes" when invited to become a member of the Order! That is an increase over prior year and thanks to all of you who have extended that invitation!

More than 98% of men joining our councils have used the online membership process to begin their journey. If you are not yet familiar with that user-friendly option, then please make it your New Year's resolution! It is a game-changer for any council wishing to grow.

At least 76% of our councils are membership-active! That is impressive and ranks Maryland as the highest in the NE region. Of course, that also indicates that we still have at least 35 councils that have not welcomed one member this year. Perhaps we can find ways to help them.

Twenty-three councils and five districts have earned the membership growth element for Star recognition!

A study conducted last year indicated that Maryland has approximately 413,400 Catholic men over the age of 18 and that slightly more than 27,000 are brother Knights (6.6%). That means that approximately 386,000 Catholic men are still waiting for an invitation!

The same study indicated that 89,500 Hispanic Catholic men reside in Maryland; however it did not indicate the number who currently are Knights. I think it's safe to assume that we have an enormous opportunity to invite these men to serve alongside us in 2026!

As we move into the second half of this fraternal year, let's be open to reaching out to men, many of whom are simply waiting for an invitation to belong to the world's largest and most impactful Catholic fraternal organization. We have such a meaningful and inspiring story to share and should never huddle in a corner keeping it to ourselves.

Thanks to all of you who proudly proclaim the good news of the Knights of Columbus and who fearlessly invite Catholic men in your families, parishes, and communities to serve alongside us as we strive to make a difference in so many lives. And special congratulations and best wishes to all of you who participated in the "Knight Before Christmas Sweepstakes!"

Vivat Jesus,

Terry

kofc.org/join



kofc.org/unite





State Programs

Alan Pultyniewicz
 apulty@yahoo.com - 410-491-8742



Faith In Action – Make A Difference in Someone’s Life



Worthy Brothers All,

I hope you and your families had a blessed Christmas and New Year’s holiday. Now that it is January, it’s time for councils to check the status of their Faith in Action Programs to ensure they are on our way to being a Star Council. Conducting meaningful Faith in Action programs give Catholic men the opportunity to live out their faith by hosting programs that serve and support our families, fellow parishioners, and neighbor throughout our communities that make a difference in someone’s life.

Councils must conduct at least one Faith, Family, Community and Life Program each quarter as a requirement for Star Council. The second period covered programs that were held between September 1 and November 30, 2025. If your council did not submit a FIA Report Form 10784 online to Supreme for the second period, please take a few minutes to report on that activity NOW. It only takes a few minutes. We are now in our third reporting period (December 1, 2025 through February 28, 2026) for reporting FIA programs. FIA report forms for the 3rd period will be due no later than March 7, 2026.

During the month of January, many councils conduct a myriad of Life programs to support the unborn and mothers experiencing unplanned pregnancies. These include baby bottle donation campaigns or donation drives of baby items for local pregnancy centers. Councils are also encouraged to support the 2026 National March for Life in DC that will be held on Friday, January 23, 2026. Supreme relies on volunteers to help distribute KofC signs and hats on the National Mall, in the hours before the start of the march. This year, the Maryland State Council has been asked to provide 30 Knights as volunteers to assist in the morning hours of January 23rd from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon. All volunteers will receive a free KofC windbreaker and fleece hat. Can you be one of these volunteers? If so, please click on this link to register: <https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/8537574/March-for-Life-Volunteer-Registration-2026>.

Check the revised schedule for the Sacred Heart of Jesus Pilgrim Icon Program at <https://kofc-md.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/Sacred-Heart-Icon-2025-2026-Schedule.pdf>. Councils are reminded to complete the online Pilgrim Icon form at the conclusion of your Pilgrim Icon Program. The online form is available at: <https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/8124274/State-Pilgrim-Icon-Program-Form>.

Councils are encouraged to submit nominations for Catholic Teacher; Faith Formation Teacher (formerly CCD); Citizen; Police Officer; Firefighter; EMT; and Healthcare Worker of the Year who are deserving of our appreciation and recognition for their service to our parishes and communities. Nominations are due to Walter Leskuski, Community Activities Director no later than February 10th. The nomination forms are posted on the state website at <https://kofc-md.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/Recognition-Program-letter-2025-2026.pdf>. Please email nomination forms to Walter at pfn.md384@gmail.com. Also, please submit your council nominations for Family of the Year. The nominations are also due by February 10th and must be submitted to Vernon Hawkins, Jr., Family of the Year Chairman. Please email your nominations to vhawkinsjr@aol.com with a cc: to State Family Activities Director, Timothy Lynch, at fdmdkoc@gmail.com. More information can be found on the state website at: https://kofc-md.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/Family-of-the-Year-2025_2026.pdf. The Maryland State Council will be recognizing this year’s winners at the annual Founders Day Mass and Awards Recognition Ceremony on Sunday, March 22, 2026. Mass will be celebrated by State Chaplain and 2025-2026 Honoree Fr. Donald Grzymski at 3:00 p.m. at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Fullerton with the awards recognition ceremony at Columbus Gardens at 4:30 p.m.

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State Programs

Alan Pultyniewicz
apulty@yahoo.com - 410-491-8742



(Continued)

Join the Maryland State Council at the annual Catholic Men's Fellowship Conference "Shine the Light" on Saturday, March 14, 2026, at St. Louis Catholic Church in Clarksville. For more information visit www.catholicmensfellowship.com. Patrick Kelly, Supreme Knight, will be one of the featured speakers.

The State Council Basketball Free Throw Competition will be held at St. Vincent Pallotti High School in Laurel on Saturday, March 14, 2026, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The event is for girls and boys, ages 9-14 who are the winners of their District-level Basketball Free Throw events. Visit <https://kofc-md.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/2026-Basketball-Free-Throw.pdf> for more details.

It's also time to start thinking about your council's best Faith, Family, Community, and Life Program that your council conducted during this fraternal year. All councils are requested to submit one State Program Awards Entry Form (STSP) for each of their best Faith, Family, Community, and Life Program conducted between March 1, 2025 and February 28, 2026 no later than March 7, 2026. Get your entry forms in today – no need to wait until March. Submit these forms directly to State Program Director Alan Pultyniewicz at apulty@yahoo.com with a cc: to reports@kofc-md.org. We look forward to recognizing these programs and the efforts of your council at the State Convention in Annapolis in May.

Councils are also reminded to submit their Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity Report Form #1728 to Supreme no later than January 31, 2026. The report form is available online at https://www.kofc.org/en/forms/council/fraternal_survey1728_p.pdf.

May God continue to bless you and your councils for your dedication to our Faith in Action Programs in your parishes and communities. As we begin 2026, let's resolve to continue our efforts to **"Make a Difference in Someone's Life and Be a Force For Good."**

Vivat Jesus,

Alan Pultyniewicz

Beds Under Kids

November
Kids: 49 Families Served: 23

2025 Year to Date
Kids: 496 Families Served: 268

All Time since January 2019
Kids= 2938 Families Served = 1662

MD-Frederick CO

Councils in Frederick County under the guidance and direction of Brother
Knights Mike Jacobs and Marty Nau are making a difference.



Hispanic Activities



Armando Fernandez
armfernandez@gmail.com - (443)-691-7718



¡Hola Hermanos Caballeros! Ruego que ustedes y sus familias estén bien.

Les extiendo un caluroso saludo fraternal de parte de nuestro Diputado de el Estado el Hermano Antony N. Salvemini.

Hemos llegado al medio tiempo, osea a la mitad de nuestro año fraternal, todos los Dignos Gran Caballeros y los Dignos Diputados Gran Caballeros estan convocados a reunirse el 10 de Enero del 2026 en el Columbus Garden la direccion es 4301 Klosterman Ave Nottingham, MD 21236 y allí mismo sera la rifa de el incentivo navideño que se celebro en Diciembre de el estado donde pusieron los nombres de las personas que reclutaron al menos un nuevo miembro y saldran 3 ganadores, un primer lugar un Segundo lugar y un tercer lugar.

Visite kofc.org/capacitacion para encontrar capacitación en línea para funcionarios de estado, consejo, y distrito, un archivo de seminarios web fraternales y recursos importantes que lo ayudarán a navegar su rol de liderazgo.

Nuestra útil lista de **Capacitación Sugerida Funcionarios** destaca las sesiones de capacitación que se recomiendan para su posición de funcionario del consejo. La capacitación se revisa continuamente, por lo que siempre obtendrá la información más actualizada. ¡Lo mejor de todo es que estas sesiones en demanda están disponibles para verlas en cualquier momento, según su propio horario, y la duración promedio de cada sesión es de solo 30 minutos!

Gran Caballero

- Planifique asistir a la junta del medio año del distrito y asegúrese de que todos los funcionarios principales de su consejo puedan asistir.
- El Premio Fundadores y el Premio Consejo Estrella requieren que los consejos promocionen y participen en dos seminarios de beneficios fraternales. Para garantizar que su consejo reciba el crédito correspondiente, es fundamental que complete el Informe del Consejo sobre **Eventos de Beneficios Fraternales** (#11077) y envíelo de manera oportuna después del seminario.
- Familiarícese con la **guía de referencia** de los programas de Fe en Acción y compártala con su equipo de programas.
- Asegúrese de que su Director de EFF reciba tiempo para informar durante las reuniones del consejo y que obtengan una asignación adecuada dentro del presupuesto del consejo.
- ¡Ya llegó el Adviento! Considere utilizar las sugerencias disponibles para el Adviento en **Cor Central**, incluyendo las **reflexiones semanales de Adviento en video** presentadas por el Dr. Jonathan Reyes.
- Se le da las gracias a los Grandes Caballeros que han presentado el **Formulario de presentación del Director de EFF del Consejo** este año fraternal. Si no ha completado este formulario, hágalo lo antes posible para que podamos incluir a su Director de EFF del Consejo en todas las comunicaciones de Cor.

Una vez que haya presentado este informe, su Director de EFF del Consejo recibirá una serie semanal de seis a ocho correos electrónicos de Cor con sugerencias prácticas y herramientas de planificación para un año exitoso.

Secretario Financiero

- Cada consejo debe presentar el Informe Anual de Actividades Fraternales (#1728) antes del 31 de enero de 2026. Los Grandes Caballeros y los Secretarios Financieros pueden completar el formulario #1728 de forma digital

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Hispanic Activities

Continued



Los sitios web en Espanol del Consejo Supremo están disponibles para todos los miembros que hablan español:

YouTube: <https://youtube.com/@kofc.oficial?si=Nt7XhZfHDj4hsuBJ>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/share/19GsvKj6jg/?mibextid=wwXIfr>

Instagram: Caballeros de Colón Oficial

Si tienen alguna pregunta favor de mandarme un email a armfernandez@gmail.com o un texto al 443-691-7718

“Seamos una fuerza del bien, Y hagamos una diferencia en la vida de alguien”

Vivat Jesus,

Armando Fernandez



Council 18170 posada reenactment.



Council 18170 collecting casseroles for the homeless.



Council 16611 Christmas Celebration with the Little Sisters of the Poor



Maryland State Ladies Auxiliary



Welcome to a new year! New opportunities and ideas are in the air! We still have new auxiliaries in the making, which is amazing! We also need to make sure our existing auxiliaries are growing with new members and activities so we hope you can attend our seminars this year to impart new ideas and solutions.

We are happy to announce that we have a new auxiliary in the Maryland Jurisdiction! Daughters of Our Lady Auxiliary at William E. Baldwin, Sr. Council #17990 will hold their first installation of officers on January 11, 2026. We all wish them a wonderful installation and a successful first year.

It is time to get all your files together for the Awards applications to ensure the reports are easier to compile. The award packets were distributed by email to Auxiliary Presidents in mid-December. If you did not receive your packet, please let us know. Thanks to all who attended our Zoom meeting to help explain the report process. Please reach out to one of us if you have any questions.

Unfortunately, we have lost a few of our members over the last year and our hearts are saddened that they are gone, but we also rejoice in the fact that they no longer suffer pain and are in the arms of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Please remember to pray for their families and friends who miss them so. Reach out a hand to check in on them with a phone call or a meal sent to their home.

May the new year be kind to you and yours!

Make a Difference in Someone's Life and Be a Force for Good,

Ruth, Juana, and Annette



Estado de Maryland Damas Auxiliares



Feliz Año Nuevo!

¡Bienvenidas a un nuevo año! ¡Nuevas oportunidades e ideas están en el aire! Todavía estamos creando nuevos grupos de Damas auxiliares, ¡lo cual es fantástico! También nos gustaría ver que los grupos de Damas auxiliares existentes sigan creciendo con nuevas damas y haciendo nuevas actividades, esperamos que puedan asistir a nuestros seminarios este año para compartir nuevas ideas y soluciones.

Nos complace anunciar que instalaremos un nuevo grupo de Damas auxiliares en la Jurisdicción de Maryland. El Grupo se llamará Hijas de Nuestra Señora Auxiliadora del Consejo William E. Baldwin, Sr. #17990 celebrará su primera ceremonia de investidura de oficiales el 11 de enero de 2026. Les deseamos a todas una maravillosa ceremonia y un primer año lleno de éxitos.

Es hora de reunir todos los archivos para las solicitudes de los premios, a fin de garantizar que los informes sean más fáciles de compilar. Los paquetes de los premios se distribuyeron por correo electrónico a los presidentes auxiliares a mediados de Diciembre. Si no ha recibido su paquete, por favor háganoslo saber.

Gracias a todos los que asistieron a nuestra reunión de Zoom para ayudar a explicar el proceso de presentación de informes. Si tiene alguna pregunta, póngase en contacto con uno de nosotros.

Lamentablemente, hemos perdido a algunos de nuestros Damas Auxiliadoras durante el último año y nos entristece profundamente su partida, pero también nos reconforta saber que ya no sufren y que están en los brazos de nuestro Salvador, Jesucristo. Por favor, recuerden orar por sus familiares y amigos, a quien los extrañan tanto. Acérquense a ellos con una llamada telefónica o enviándoles una comida a su casa.

¡Que el nuevo año sea bondadoso con ustedes y con sus seres queridos!

!Hagan una diferencia en la vida de alguien y sean una fuerza para el bien.

Sus copresidentas,

Ruth, Juana, Annette



Benefits Advisor Corner



Not “The Insurance Guy”

Your fraternal benefits advisor is much more than the insurance guy. Why?

Because we do so much more. We are here to educate new members as well as existing members. When a new member joins, we drop anything we are doing because we know how important it is to connect to a new member. As online membership increases members are not necessarily going through an admission committee which was common a decade ago. Many of these members are not yet connected with a local council. Even if not an online member, but a member recruited by a council, there is so much information we provide. By referring to your benefits advisors as the insurance guy it prejudgets what the new member will encounter when he meets with a Supreme representative. Know that we are the biggest promoters of your councils and the programs you run. We encourage a new member to become active in your councils and to participate in your activities. Every new member that we can reach receives the following information that takes 20 to 30 minutes:

1. We start with the story of the Knights of Columbus and Fr. McGivney's mission. We go deep into the early history of the Order and why we were founded and then follow the history through the twentieth century that includes references to KofC huts during World War I, the Order's importance in getting Under God added to the pledge of allegiance. We go through the history and expansion of the Order including Saint Pope John Paul the Great asking the KofC to establish councils in his home country of Poland. We go into why he called the KofC the right arm of the church.
2. We start in Rome with the KofC's donations to restore parts of the Vatican, our support of Vatican Television, and the Vicarious Christi fund. We cover our support of the military diocese and our support of Christians persecuted in many areas of the world.
3. We explain our programs in the United States starting with our support of the Special Olympics, disaster relief, Coats for Kids, Tootsie Roll program, our wheelchair program, and our support of pro-life causes including the large number of Ultrasound machines we have purchased.
4. We then cover your local council and the activities of the council. It is so important that the benefits advisor know what your activities are so we can encourage members to get involved. We explain the four main activity areas of each council. We will also cover meeting nights and officers of the council and encourage them to get their wives involved as well. I always mention that the KofC is here not to take time away from Brother Knight's families, but to strengthen Catholic families.
5. After about 15 to 20 minutes or more we move on to the fraternal benefits of the Knights of Columbus and how they help underwrite the entire Order. This part may only take about 10 minutes as we usually promise a new member that our meeting will only take about 30 minutes. I have given thousands of these presentations through my 33 years working with the Knights of Columbus. In almost all cases, members are open to finding out more about the benefits of the Order in a second meeting.

So, what is the way to refer to your benefits advisor when speaking with a new or existing member? How about Team Member? We are part of your council team; each has a specific duty that adds to the success of the council. I instruct my benefits advisors when they call a new member to tell them that they are a team member with the council and they will be visiting with the member and his wife to go through the activities and programs of the Order. When a new member joins and happens to ask you, a council member, who or why someone is calling them, please inform the new candidate that it is a team member calling and he will cover everything about the Knights of Columbus and please encourage that member to take the phone call and to meet with the advisor. As always, thank you for your assistance and support in fulfilling Father McGivney's mission.

Edward O'Keefe
General Agent



Edward A. O'Keefe, CLU, ChFC, CASL, CLF
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Maryland Knights In Action



Council 1622 Coats for Kids Donation



Council 16611 Coats for the Homeless



Council 1384 Breakfast with Santa



Army Navy Game Half Time Rosary



Council 14535 Christmas Dinner



Fr McGivney Ordination Anniversary Celebration



Council 1442 Coats for Kids



Council 11106 Exemplification



PILGRIM ICON PROGRAM

Sacred Heart of Jesus Pilgrim Icon 2025 – 2026 Schedule

Mike Novak, FDD – Pilgrim Icon Chairman j.michael.novak@verizon.net 443-695-1862

Sacred Heart ICON - 89

*November 11, 2025 – December 07, 2025
 December 08, 2025 – January 04, 2026
 January 05, 2026 – February 01, 2026
 February 02, 2026 – March 01, 2026
 March 02, 2026 – March 29, 2026
 March 30, 2026 – April 26, 2026
 April 27, 2026 – May 24, 2026
 May 25, 2026 – June 21, 2026*

Host District:

*District 03
 District 17
 Districts 23
 District 21
 District 04
 District 25
 District 08
 District 20*

General Area

*Glen Burnie
 Catonsville
 Elkridge
 Ellicott City
 Sykesville/Owings Mills
 Frederick/Taneytown
 Frederick/Hancock
 Cumberland & West*

Sacred Heart ICON – 93

*November 11, 2025 – December 07, 2025
 December 08, 2025 – January 04, 2026
 January 05, 2026 – February 01, 2026
 February 02, 2026 – March 01, 2026
 March 02, 2026 – March 29, 2026
 March 30, 2026 – April 26, 2026
 April 27, 2026 – May 24, 2026
 May 25, 2026 – June 21, 2026*

Host District

*District 05
 District 28
 District 27
 District 16
 District 32
 District 19
 District 07
 District 13*

General Area

*Ijamsville/Mt. Airy
 Baltimore City
 Abingdon / Parkton
 Aberdeen/Forest Hill
 Baltimore City
 Baltimore City
 Dundalk
 North Baltimore*

Sacred Heart ICON - 94

*November 11, 2025 – December 07, 2025
 December 08, 2025 – January 04, 2026
 January 05, 2026 – February 01, 2026
 February 02, 2026 – March 01, 2026
 March 02, 2026 – March 29, 2026
 March 30, 2026 – April 26, 2026
 April 27, 2026 – May 24, 2026
 May 25, 2026 – June 21, 2026*

Host District:

*District 24
 District 22
 District 26
 District 12
 District 09
 District 29
 District 06
 District 01*

General Area

*Annapolis
 Salisbury/Ocean City
 Easton/Chestertown
 Waldorf
 Prince Frederick
 Lexington Park
 Hollywood
 Largo/Upper Marlboro*

Sacred Heart ICON - 103

*November 11, 2025 – December 07, 2025
 December 08, 2025 – January 04, 2026
 January 05, 2026 – February 01, 2026
 February 02, 2026 – March 01, 2026
 March 02, 2026 – March 29, 2026
 March 30, 2026 – April 26, 2026
 April 27, 2026 – May 24, 2026
 May 25, 2026 – June 21, 2026*

Host District

*District 15
 District 02
 District 14
 District 10
 District 11
 District 18
 District 30
 District 31*

General Area

*Forestville
 Bowie/Mitchellville
 Greenbelt/Takoma Park
 Laurel
 Silver Spring
 Bethesda/Rockville
 Olney/Gaithersburg
 Germantown/Damascus*

Instead of the log book enclosed with the Icon use the online link for councils to fill out. Please see the link below.

<https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/8124274/State-Pilgrim-Icon-Program-Form>



Knights of Columbus Maryland State Council

P.O Box 1468
Bowie, MD 20717

August 2025

Worthy Grand Knight:

This letter outlines the scholarship program sponsored by the Maryland State Council of the Knights of Columbus. Many council members, and often even the Grand Knights, are unfamiliar with the details and processes for our scholarship awards.

The attached information serves as a source of information and provides members with the knowledge to complete an application for one or more of these scholarships. Information and applications may be obtained by accessing our website at www.kofc-md.org and selecting Resources, then High School Scholarship, or directly at the link below.
<https://kofc-md.org/high-school-scholarships/>

Children of Maryland Jurisdiction Knights of Columbus members in good standing are eligible to apply for both the Gossman and O'Brien Scholarships. All other Catholic students are eligible for the O'Brien scholarship only.

Please include scholarship information in your Council Bulletins or webpage from October through January. Also, please provide a copy of each to the office of the parish or parishes supported by your council as well the parish school office(s) so that they may be shared with parishioners and parents of students. Be sure that the Council Publicity Chairman and/or Bulletin Editor have a copy of each so they can be reproduced for greater distribution. Your cooperation in making this scholarship information available to your membership, parish(s), and parish elementary schools will be greatly appreciated.

In addition to the Maryland State Council high school scholarships, the Supreme Council offers scholarship programs for college and advanced degrees. Encourage your members to explore these options at the link below.

<https://www.kofc.org/en/what-we-do/scholarships/index.html>

Fraternally,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christopher L. Powers'.

Christopher L. Powers
Scholarship Chairman

Y O U ' R E I N V I T E D

ARCHDIOCESE
of BALTIMORECATHOLIC
MEN'S FELLOWSHIP
OF MARYLAND

CATHOLIC MEN'S FELLOWSHIP OF MARYLAND ANNUAL CONFERENCE

“Shine the Light”

March 14, 2026 | St. Louis, Clarksville



Scan here or visit
catholicmensfellowship.com
for more information.

Featured Speakers



Patrick Kelly
Supreme Knight
Knights of Columbus



Paul George
President
Art of Living, Inc.

Emcee



Mark Viviano
Broadcaster
Columnist





Maryland State Council Knights of Columbus



Basketball Free-throw Competition

March 14, 2026 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Registration open from 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM

(Any ties will be decided by shoot-off at 12:30 PM. Participants must be in the gym at that time)

St. Vincent Pallotti High School

113 St. Mary's Place, Laurel, MD 20707

- Open only to the 2026 District Winners - Girls and Boys, Ages 9 – 14
- Competitors must bring their score sheets from district competition, showing the district and council in which they won their age category.
- DDs must send district results to the co-chairmen by March 11th.



Volunteers are needed!

Questions – call or e-mail the co-chairmen:

Walt Williams, 410-692-6461, wjw5115@outlook.com or Brian Trott, 443-370-6691, brtrott@gmail.com



Knights of Columbus

Maryland State Council

P.O Box 1468
Bowie, MD 20717

FY 2025-2026

TO: District Deputies and Grand Knights

RE: Family of the Year

Worthy All,

The Maryland State Council annually conducts a ***Family of the Year*** recognition program. The family selected for this award will be honored at the Founder's Day Dinner on Sunday, March 22, 2026.

The ***Family of the Year*** is selected from nominations submitted by councils within the Maryland jurisdiction. This program will allow your Council the opportunity to honor families that made significant contributions to Faith, Family, and Community activities. This award is presented to the family that best demonstrates exceptional support of the principles of our Church and our Order and is considered to be a "model" family. Please note that the father of the nominated family ***MUST*** be a Knight of Columbus in good standing with his council.

The nomination form is posted on the Supreme Council website and can be obtained by clicking [**10680 Family of Year Form**](#).

Completed nomination packets for each council, with all supporting documentation, must be sent electronically no later than Tuesday, **FEBRUARY 10, 2026**. Email your nomination to me at vhawkinsjr@aol.com Please cc: State Family Activities Director, Timothy Lynch as well at fdmdkoc@gmail.com. Please retain hardcopies as they will be required for submission to Supreme Council should your nominee be selected as the Maryland State Council Family of the Year.

Councils are encouraged to honor their selected family locally at a Council meeting or social gathering. We suggest that you invite the recipient's entire family and friends to attend the presentation and share in the celebration. It is appropriate to award a certificate, plaque, or other recognition memento. An appropriate Council Family of the Year certificate is available on the Supreme website by clicking [**1843A Family of Year Cert**](#), or by ordering Form 1843A through Supplies Online on the Supreme website.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at 301-367-1881 or via email at vhawkinsjr@aol.com.

Fraternally,

Vernon Hawkins Jr.

Vernon Hawkins, Jr.
Family of the Year Chairman



Thursday April 30, 2026

8:00am Registration 9:00 am Shotgun Start

**\$105 per golfer includes: Green Fees,
Cart, Lunch, Beverages & Prizes**

**Any Questions, call Paul Weber 410 879-0558
or email apaulweber@verizon.net**

Foursomes are limited. Reservations and payment must be made no later than April 16th. Send check payable to: Maryland State Council Convention Fund. Mail to Paul Weber 2223 Larchmont Dr. Fallston Md. 21047

(please print) Name

Council #

Telephone # or Email

Tean Captain _____

Player #2 _____

Player #3 _____

Player #4 _____



2025-2026



State Planning Calendar

UPDATED 12/10/25

MONTH	DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
JAN 2026	1/10	MIDTERM MEETING	COLUMBUS GARDENS	JEFFREY WILK
	1/31	AWD 4TH DEGREE EXEMPLIFICATION	ST HUGH OF GRENOBLE CHURCH GREENBELT, MD	SK GUS GUSMAN
FEB 2026	2/21	MARYLAND DISTRICT 4TH DEGREE EXEMPLIFICATION	ST. JOHN CATHOLIC CHURCH, WESTMINSTER, MD	SK JIM DURYEE
MAR 2026	3/7	SPRING MEETING	EASTON VFW POST 5118 EASTON, MD	JEFFREY WILK
	3/14	CATHOLIC MEN'S FELLOWSHIP ANNUAL CONFERENCE	ST LOUIS CHURCH CLARKSVILLE, MD	
	3/14	STATEWIDE FREE THROW FINALS	ST. VINCENT PALLOTTI HIGH SCHOOL LAUREL, MD	WALT WILLIAMS BRIAN TROTT
	3/22	FOUNDERS DAY MASS	ST JOSEPH CHURCH FULLERTON BALTIMORE, MD	MIKE WATSON
	3/22	FOUNDERS DAY BANQUET	COLUMBUS GARDENS	MIKE WATSON
	3/22	AWD 4TH DEGREE EXEMPLIFICATION	ST. JOHN PAUL II NATIONAL SHRINE WASHINGTON, DC	SK GUS GUSMAN
APR 2026	4/11	AWD BIENNIAL MEETING	NATIVITY CHURCH WASHINGTON, DC	SK GUS GUSMAN
MAY 2026	5/1-3	MD STATE COUNCIL CONVENTION	CROWNE PLAZA ANNAPOLIS, MD	E. PAUL JONES
AUG 2026	8/15	SALVEMINI TESTIMONIAL	COLUMBUS GARDENS	JEFFREY WILK