



Maryland State Council Newsletter



May 2026

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Make a Difference in Someone's Life



Inside This Edition

State Chaplain’s Message3

State Deputy’s Message4

First Lady’s Message5

Training Message.....6

Council Growth.....7

State Programs10

Hispanic Activities.....14

Ladies Auxiliary15

Benefits Advisor Corner.....17

Maryland Knights in Action18

Pilgrim Icon Program Info.....19

Knight’s Family Picnic Info.....20

State Family Camping Info..... 21

National Eucharistic Pilgrimage Info.....22

Maryland Special Olympics Info..... 23

Charity Fund Fundraising Event Info.....26

2025-2026 State Planning Calendar.....27

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 platforms.



State Chaplain's Message



Fr Donald Grzymiski OFM Conv
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As our Church honors Mary in a special way during the month of May, let us also pay honor to Mary as the Knights of Columbus.

We most especially think of Mary as the mother of the Messiah, but for us as disciples she is also a model of faithful discipleship; she is our mother as well. Remember Jesus words from the cross to St. John, but also to us, "Behold your mother." (John 19:26-27)

If we sense the Lord is inviting us to do something, to move in a particular direction, Mary invites us to echo her response, "Let it be done to me according to your word." (Luke 1:38)

When we reflect on being God's children, and on the blessings we have received, we can join Mary in saying "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord." (Luke 1:46)

If we are looking for a path of action, we invite Jesus to give direction, and then think of what Mary said to the waiters at the Cana wedding: "Do whatever he (Jesus) tells you." (John 2:5)

We might also turn to particular apparitions for inspiration and comfort. Our Lady of Guadalupe said to St. Juan Diego, "Am I not here, I who am your mother?" We are so fortunate Mary has accepted that role from the cross and has fulfilled it over the centuries.

Speaking to the three children, Our Lady of Fatima said, "pray, especially the rosary, for peace." The rosary is a way of reflecting on the mysteries of Christ's life, and on Mary's intercessory role.

Scripture and Church history let us know that we do not diminish our worship of God when we also honor Mary, Mother of God. If we start listing every church in Maryland dedicated to our Lady, not only is the list extensive, but we appreciate all the various titles by which Mary is known. (How many can you name?!)

In a special way this month let us invoke Mary's intercession, and ask her to guide the state convention and all who will assume new roles of leadership, for she is "Queen of the Knights." Finally, as we celebrate Mother's Day, and we pray for our mothers both living and deceased, we further know the difference a mother's love makes in the lives of her children. We have an earthly mother, and also a heavenly one.

Vivat Jesus!

Fr. Donald

- 1 May Saint Joseph the Worker**
- 2 May Saint Athanasius, Bishop and Doctor of the Church**
- 12 May Saints Nereus and Achilleus, Martyrs; Saint Pancras, Martyr**
- 13 May Our Lady of Fatima**
- 14 May Saint Matthias, Apostle**
- 15 May Saint Isidore**
- 17 May THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD**
- 18 May Saint John I, Pope and Martyr**
- 20 May Saint Bernardine of Siena, Priest**
- 21 May Saint Catherine of Siena, Virgin and Doctor of the Church**
- 22 May Saint Rita of Cascia, Religious**
- 24 May PENTECOST SUNDAY**
- 25 May The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church**
- 26 May Saint Philip Neri, Priest**
- 31 May THE MOST HOLY TRINITY**



State Deputy's Message

Tony Salvemini

a.ns@comcast.net - (240) 472-7645



The month of May brings us to the 128th Maryland State Council Annual Convention. Paul Jones and his team have worked hard to make this a memorable last convention in the Crowne Plaza Hotel. This year, we're honored to have the Supreme Chaplain of the Knights of Columbus, The Most Reverend William E. Lori, Archbishop of Baltimore celebrate our Convention Mass and attend our Saturday evening banquet. Also, attending this year's convention is Regional Growth Director and Past State Deputy of Michigan, William Chasse and his wife, Marybeth. Please give them all a warm welcome!

American Knights are invited to celebrate the United States' 250th anniversary this year with devotion, prayer and service. Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly is encouraging councils to help answer the U.S. bishops' call for parishes and individuals to complete **250 Hours of Adoration and 250 Works of Mercy**. Additionally, inspired by the U.S. bishops' forthcoming consecration of the United States to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, **Knights and their families are invited to dedicate themselves, their homes and their councils to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.**

Also, as we rapidly approach the end of the fraternal year it is important that District Deputies and Grand Knights complete the necessary items to successfully complete their fraternal year and set the stage for the upcoming year.

District Deputies

- Encourage your councils to submit the **Columbian Award Application (#SP-7) as soon as they earn 16 program credits.** Reminder: council participation in any of the 8 new Faith in Action programs earns 2 program credits.
- Encourage councils to appoint a nominating committee to recommend officers for the next fraternal year. Have the committee look beyond the usual volunteers to find a good mix of candidates representing fresh ideas and sound council practices.
- Check on the progress of each of your councils in earning the **Star Council Award**. Work with the field agent to conduct a district Fraternal Benefit Seminar.

Grand Knights

- Ensure timely processing of your **ASAP, RSVP and Food for Families** refund applications by gathering the necessary supporting documentation and submitting the forms now.
- Submit the **Columbian Award Application (#SP-7) as soon as your council has completed 16 program credits**, to ensure timely processing.
- Hold your council officer elections between May 1 and June 15 and submit the Report of Officers Chosen for the Term (#185) by June 30.
- Council EFF Director Submission Form: Please submit to your EFF Director via this separate form (position not listed on Council #365) to ensure he receives all *Cor* communications.

Last but certainly not least, remember to thank your Mom on Mother's Day as you continue to make a difference in someone's life by being a force for good.

Vivat Jesus,

Tony



**Greetings from
the First Lady
of the Maryland State Council**

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



Greetings, Amazing Maryland Ladies!

I hope you each had a blessed Easter celebration with your families and friends and managed to dodge the raindrops from the spring showers.

I'm hoping to see many of you on the first weekend in May at the 128th Maryland State Council Convention in Annapolis! I have two events for ladies planned with my Ladies Activities Committee, Kathy's Buds. We've put in a lot of work, and I think you'll find each event a wonderful opportunity to have fun and make new friends. I'll share pictures from these events in next month's newsletter.

Congratulations in advance to the Ladies Auxiliaries who have been selected to receive awards at the Convention Awards Ceremony! Our outstanding auxiliaries around the state held incredible events this past year, and they presented our judges with a real challenge when it came to selecting the winners. A big thank you goes out to everyone who participated in the awards process. Winners will be posted on the state website after the convention, and we'll list the winners and their event titles in the June Auxiliary Newsletter article.

This month's health reminder is that skin cancer is the most common cancer in the US. May is National Skin Cancer Awareness Month, dedicated to educating the public about prevention, early detection, and the dangers of UV exposure. With the weather warming up, we'll be spending more time outside. Please remember to wear sunscreen and make an appointment with a dermatologist for an annual skin scan.

Mother's Day is May 10th, and I would like to extend my congratulations and heartfelt thanks to every woman who has contributed to raising a child by providing care, support, and nurturing. Your love and encouragement have made a difference in the life of that child.

As always, thank you for everything you do for your parish, community, 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



As we move into the final two months of this fraternal year it's exciting to see so many councils and brother Knights demonstrating a remarkable passion around membership growth! In fact, **we now have 45 councils that have earned the McGivney Award for achieving their annual membership growth goal. Congratulations to councils 1365, 2605, 2293, 9808, 11422, 11618, and 18656 who moved into this winners circle in April!**

Last month, 83 Knights also received checks in the mail for finding ways to recruit new members as part of our wildly popular \$50 Recruitment Incentive program. (By the way, if you have not yet taken advantage of this program, then you are literally leaving money on the table!) **Special congratulations to these recruitment champions who welcomed at least three men into the Order: Mearland Rusaw, Alan Pultyniewicz, Robert Goldsack, Chris Phillips, Ike Onochie, and Terry Waters. And kudos to the other 77 Knights who stepped up and welcomed at least one man! Well done!**

Speaking of stepping up, none of this happens on its own and it takes all of us reaching out to extend that important invitation! And it's not that hard! We can invite men through our church drives, or simply invite men we see in the pews each week at mass. The new Membership Enrollment cards are ideal for these situations so put them to use!

Last month, thousands of men became Catholics in Maryland via O.C.I.A. programs. Have you reached out to them yet? We all know they are prime candidates for joining us on our journey as Knights!

Finally, the month of May is typically filled with many social events- church and neighborhood picnics, Memorial Day celebrations, pool parties- all wonderful opportunities to invite men to serve alongside us.

Thanks to all of you who are committed and dedicated to growing your councils. This is an exciting time to be a Knight of Columbus so let's give others the opportunity to experience how we work together to make a meaningful difference in so many lives.

Vivat Jesus,

Terry

kofc.org/join



kofc.org/unite





\$50 bonus for each new Knight recruited!

How it Works:

- Each time a Knight recruits a new member to the Order in Maryland, he will be awarded a \$50 bonus per member!
- To receive credit for recruiting a new member, the Knight's membership number must be included on the candidate's application.
- There is no limit to the amount of incentive funds a Knight can earn each month. The more members recruited, the more cash earned!
- At the end of each month, a report will be generated showing recruitment results for the month.
- Knights who earn the \$50 new member bonus will be issued payment in the form of a check mailed from the State office each month.

Eligibility Guidelines:

- All MD Knights who are in good standing are eligible to participate.
- All ladies are eligible to participate, but to receive credit, must use a Knights' membership number when acting as a proposer.

Why Recruit:

- New members bring new friendships, new ideas, new energy.
- Councils that invite new members are councils that expand their charitable outreach.
- Knights owe the gift of membership to all Catholic men!

Be part of something special! Don't miss this unique opportunity to earn cash for your recruitment efforts! Start today and make the most of this incentive program designed to grow our Order and expand our charitable outreach!





\$50.00 por cada nuevo caballero reclutado!

Como funciona:

- Cada vez que un caballero reclute a un nuevo miembro para la Orden en Maryland, ¡recibirá un cheque de 50 dólares por cada miembro!
- Para recibir el crédito por reclutar a un nuevo miembro, el número de membresía del caballero proponente debe incluirse en la aplicacion del candidato.
- No hay un límite en la cantidad de dinero que un caballero puede ganar cada mes. Cuantos más miembros reclute, más dinero ganará.
- Al final de cada mes, se generará un informe que mostrará los resultados de reclutamiento del mes.
- Los caballeros que ganen el bono de 50 dólares por nuevo miembro recibirán el pago en forma de cheque enviado por correo desde la oficina estatal cada mes.

Requisitos de elegibilidad:

- Todos los Caballeros de Maryland que estén al corriente de sus obligaciones pueden participar.
- Todas las mujeres pueden participar, pero para recibir el crédito deben utilizar un número de membresía de un Caballero cuando actúen como proponentes.

¿Por qué reclutar?

- Los nuevos miembros aportan nuevas amistades, nuevas ideas y nueva energía.
- Los consejos que invitan a nuevos miembros son consejos que amplían su alcance caritativo.
- ¡Los Caballeros deben compartir el regalo de membresía a todos los hombres católicos!

¡Forma parte de algo especial! ¡No te pierdas esta oportunidad única de ganar dinero por tus esfuerzos de reclutamiento! ¡Empieza hoy mismo y aprovecha al máximo este programa de incentivos diseñado para hacer crecer nuestra Orden y ampliar nuestro alcance caritativo!





State Programs

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



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



Brothers All,

There are many opportunities over the next several months to conduct Faith in Action programs that support our core areas of faith, family, community, and life.

During the month of May, we honor our Blessed Mother. Some suggested programs include:

- Distribute marigolds or flowers to the mothers and ladies in your council and parish on Mother's Day.
- Collect donations to support a pregnancy center in your community. Pray for life and for all mothers and their babies.
- Host regularly scheduled rosaries for your council and parish. For more information, visit kofc.org/rosary.

One of Supreme's newest FIA Program is Viva Cristo Rey! May 21 is the feast day of the Mexican Martyrs, including several Knights of Columbus members who were killed for their faith during the religious persecution of Catholics by the Mexican government in the early 20th century. Councils are encouraged to pray a Novena or attend Mass to commemorate this feast day. For resources, visit:

<https://files.kofc.org/download/assets/Viva+Cristo+Rey+Guide+Sheet/3ea7ad76d1e111f0aed15247f73ecda0>.

During the month of June, we celebrate the Feasts of Corpus Christi and the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. Schedule the Sacred Heart of Jesus Pilgrim Icon, Holy Hours, and Eucharistic Adoration. For more information and resources, visit:

<https://www.kofc.org/en/who-we-are/our-faith/eucharist.html>

<https://files.kofc.org/download/assets/Sacred+Heart+Holy+Hour+Booklet/4dfcb2267f7311f094ef86e6873df53e>.

As you know, the United States is celebrating our semi quincennial, the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The U.S. bishops will consecrate the nation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly is encouraging all councils to complete 250 Hours of Adoration and 250 Works of Mercy. For more information, visit www.kofc.org/america250.

Additionally, in celebration of America250, there will be a National Eucharistic Pilgrimage along the East Coast (with stops in most of the original thirteen colonies) between Memorial Day weekend and the 4th of July weekend. The St. Frances Xavier Cabrini Route of the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage will travel through Maryland between June 9 and 12 – more details can be found in this issue of the newsletter. This is a wonderful way for councils to witness their faith in the Holy Eucharist and pray for the country.

The Maryland State Council family picnic will be held (rain or shine – we will be in a pavilion!) on Saturday, May 16 at Seneca Creek State Park in Gaithersburg. Registration ends May 3rd. See the flyer in this Newsletter and RSVP today at: <https://kofc-md.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/2026-State-Picnic-Flyer.pdf>. We hope to see you and your families there.

The Maryland State Camping trip to Homestead Campground in Georgetown, DE is just one month away – the weekend of June 5-7, 2026. For details, visit: <https://kofc-md.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/MD-KoC-Camping-2026.pdf> and RSVP by contacting co-chairs Robert and Tracy Mayer at tracymayer0106@gmail.com.

Finally, as a reminder to all councils, the deadline to submit the Columbian Award Application (SP-7) to Supreme is June 30th. The Columbian Award Application is a requirement for Star Council.

Thank you for being a force for good and making a difference in someone's life in your council, parish, and communities.

Vivat Jesus,
Alan



State Programs

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



(Continued)

Faith In Action Program Deadlines for 2025-2026 Fraternal Year **rev1.23.26**

Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity (Form 1728)

Due: January 31, 2026 (CC: reports@kofc-md.org)

<https://files.kofc.org/download/assets/Fraternal+Survey+Councils/71701646f7c311f0aa26965f5e1b9ba4>



Special Olympics Report (Form 10784)

Due: January 31, 2026 (CC: Calvin Anthony and reports@kofc-md.org)

<https://www.kofc.org/en/forms/spa/invite.html?lang=en&form=10784C.02>



Faith in Action Program Reports (Form 10784)

Covering 3rd Period (December 1, 2025 through February 28, 2026)

Due: March 7, 2026

<https://www.kofc.org/en/forms/spa/invite.html?lang=en&form=10784C.02>



Recognition Award Nominations

Due: February 10, 2026 (CC: reports@kofc-md.org)

https://kofc-md.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/Recognition_Nomination_Form_2025-2026.pdf





State Programs

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(Continued)

State Council Program Award (Form STSP)

Due: March 7, 2026 (email to: apulty@yahoo.com and CC: reports@kofc-md.org)

<https://files.kofc.org/download/assets/State+Council+Program+Awards+Entry+Form/a6a2e85e998911f095cddef6cbe94e30>



Family of the Year Nominations (Form 10680)

Due: February 10, 2026 (CC: reports@kofc-md.org)

<https://files.kofc.org/download/assets/Family+of+the+Year+Entry+Form/45e080c2998811f0b569d60f8891632a>



Columbian Award (Form SP-7)

Due: June 30, 2026 (submit to Supreme ASAP and CC: reports@kofc-md.org)

<https://files.kofc.org/download/assets/Columbian+Award+Guidelines/2104452a7f7211f0a040eaf3a5c371ab>



RSVP Program Refund Application

Due: June 30, 2026 (CC: reports@kofc-md.org)

<https://files.kofc.org/download/assets/RSVP+Refund+Application+Fillable+Form/8d120326998811f0a3c3f232a3708a84>





State Programs

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



Food for Families Program Refund Application

Due: June 30, 2026 (CC: reports@kofc-md.org)

<https://files.kofc.org/download/assets/Food+For+Families+Report+Form/3c8790b0998811f0b569d60f8891632a>



Remember: Forward copies of all reports submitted to Supreme to your DD and to reports@kofc-md.org



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 Anthony N. Salvemini.

Espero que hayan tenido oportunidad de participar en la convencion Estatal de nuestra orden en Annapolis, hubo elecciones y fue elegido el nuevo Guardian del Estado, muchas gracias a los delegados que asistieron y participaron votando en la eleccion. Es importante participar cada vez que hay elecciones y Tambien de asistir a las convenciones para escuchar el reporte del consejo del estado y socialisar con hermanos de nuestra orden de todos los consejod del estado de Maryland.

Tambien esspero que hayan hecho ya sus nominaciones para los oficiales que estaran representando su consejo el 2026-2027 ano fraternal, y si no favor de ponerlo en marcha inmediatamente ya que tiene que hacer elecciones a mas tardar las primeras dos Semanas de Junio para poder mandar la forma 185 a Supremo

Tambien empiezen a coordinar con su capellan la fecha para la instalacion de los nuevos oficiales de preferencia en Julio y si no en Agosto pero es major empezar a coordinar desde ahora.

Favor de Pensar Tambien en los directores de programas y llenar la forma 365 con los nombres de personal requeridos que dice la forma y mandarla a Supremo.

Revisen la lista para obtener el Premio Consejo Estrella y trabajen en las departamentos inconclusos para lograr la meta de consejo Estrella, incluyendo enviar la forma SP& que es un requisite indispensable para poder lograr la meta. Pueden mandarla desde ahora, no esperen mas, en caso de que sea rechazada tendran tiempo de arreglarla y re-enviarla nated del 30 de Junio que es la fecha limite.

Cualquier pregunta dejenme saber a mi o al Digno Guardian De Distrito El Hermano Luis Corona.

Recuerden siempre que...

“La fe en Dios es la certeza de lo que esperamos, la convicción de lo que no vemos.” – Hebreos 11:1

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

Vivat Jesus,
Armando Fernandez



Maryland State Ladies Auxiliary



Happy Mother's Day, Ladies!

Congratulations to all the award winners at this year's convention! The judges loved reading all of your reports, and you made it very difficult for them to select the award recipients. Winners will be posted on the State Website. Winners and their first-place award applications will be posted on the members-only Facebook page. Auxiliary members are eligible to join the group. If you haven't joined yet, please use this Facebook Link and click Join Group.

All the auxiliaries have done a fantastic job this year, and we could not be prouder of you. We thank all our auxiliaries for their year-round contributions. Our Maryland communities have greatly benefited from the compassion and kindness you have shown for their needs.

Now is the time to get ready for the new fraternal year. Review your bylaws to see if any changes are needed. Depending on the length of terms written into your auxiliary's bylaws, you may or may not be electing new officers this year. If you are electing officers, your nominating committee presented your slate at the April meeting. Elections will be held at your May meeting. As soon as your elections are held, please verify that we have the correct name, address, mobile number, and email for your President in the state directory. To help with smooth transitions, please have your current officers serve as mentors to the incoming officers.

If you have new officers, please remember that your installation should be conducted by one of us or your District Deputy. When possible, the best practice is to combine your auxiliary's installation with the council's installation. Please work with us to schedule your installation.

Graduation time is upon us! Remember that young Catholic men who have turned 18 are now eligible to become Knights! Reach out to see if they are interested and look around your parish for other possible candidates – remember that you are eligible to receive the \$50 recruitment incentive for each Maryland Knight you recruit! Details can be found on page 8 of the newsletter.

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

Ruth Gusman rthgsmn@gmail.com
Annette Bishop cannettebishopsc@gmail.com
Juana Fernandez bonoasachez.jf@gmail.com

Ruth, Juana, and Annette



Estado de Maryland Damas Auxiliares



¡Feliz Díadela Madre, señoras!

¡Enhorabuena a todas las ganadoras de los premios de la convención de este año! A los jueces les encantó leer todos sus informes, y fue muy difícil de elegir a las ganadoras. Las ganadoras se publicarán en la página web del estado. Las ganadoras y sus solicitudes de los premios de primer puesto se publicarán en la página de Facebook exclusiva para miembros. Los miembros de las Auxiliares pueden unirse al grupo. Si aún no se han unido, utilicen este enlace de Facebook y hagan clic en «Unirse al grupo».

Todas las auxiliares han hecho un trabajo fantástico este año, y no podríamos estar más orgullosas de ustedes. Agradecemos a todas nuestras auxiliares por sus contribuciones a lo largo del año. Nuestras comunidades de Maryland se han beneficiado enormemente de la compasión y la amabilidad que han demostrado hacia sus necesidades.

Ahora es el momento de prepararse para el nuevo año fraternal. Revisen sus estatutos para ver si es necesario realizar algún cambio. Dependiendo de la duración de los mandatos establecidos en los estatutos de su auxiliar, es posible que este año elijan o no nuevos cargos directivos. Si van a elegir cargos directivos, su comité de nominaciones presentó su lista de candidatos en la reunión de abril. Las elecciones se celebrarán en su reunión de mayo. Tan pronto como se celebren las elecciones, por favor, comprueben que disponemos del nombre, la dirección, el número de móvil y el correo electrónico correctos de su presidente en el directorio estatal. Para facilitar una transición fluida, por favor, hagan que sus actuales directivos actúen como mentores de los nuevos directivos.

Si tiene nuevos cargos, recuerde que su toma de posesión debe ser llevada a cabo por uno de nosotros o por su adjunto de distrito. Cuando sea posible, lo más recomendable es combinar la toma de posesión de su auxiliar con la del consejo. Colabore con nosotros para programar su toma de posesión.

¡Se acerca la época de graduaciones! Recuerden que los jóvenes católicos que han cumplido 18 años ya pueden convertirse en Caballeros. Pónganse en contacto con ellos para ver si están interesados y busquen en su parroquia otros posibles candidatos; recuerden que tienen derecho a recibir el incentivo de reclutamiento de 50 dólares por cada Caballero de Maryland que recluten. Pueden encontrar más detalles aquí.

¡Marca la diferencia en la vida de alguien y sé una fuerza para el bien!

Ruth Gusman	rthgsmn@gmail.com
Annette Bishop	cannettebishopsc@gmail.com
Juana Fernandez	bonoasachez.jf@gmail.com

Sus copresidentas,

Ruth, Juana, Annette



Benefits Advisor Corner



Annuity Questions

Should you start taking money out of your annuity now??

The original purpose of a 401k, IRA, or any other annuity, was to defer taxes on your money until you retire, at which point your taxes would theoretically go down. Well, that may not be the case.

Do you think taxes are going to go up or stay the same?

Many financial experts agree that with our country having over \$37 trillion in debt, taxes will likely go up. The current highest “marginal tax rate” (the most the highest income earner pays) is the lowest it’s ever been at 37%. Back in the 80’s, the tax rate was 50%. With our level of debt, taxes could easily go back to 50%, eliminating the entire idea behind the IRA.

Would you rather pay a lower tax rate now on a smaller amount of money or a higher tax rate on a larger amount tomorrow?

As an annuity grows, so does the tax burden. For every dollar you save, Uncle Sam is a beneficiary (e.g. 30%). The larger you grow your IRA, the bigger the tax bill. I refer to this as a “tax bomb” that will go off when you pull the money out. If your IRA annuity is inherited by your children, they must withdraw ALL the money within 10 years, at THEIR tax rate, which is typically a higher rate than their parents- potentially putting them in a higher tax rate and giving Uncle Sam more of your hard-earned money.

If you believe that taxes are going to go up, you may want to start taking your money out now while taxes are “on sale”.

Our annuities come with a feature called “Settlement”. This feature allows the annuitant to turn their annuity into a guaranteed income stream for life, or for a set number of years- returning back to you what could be significantly more than you started with.

Do you have new money you want to deposit?

As you may already know, an annuity with the Knights is safe and guaranteed to earn a guaranteed minimum interest. It can NEVER lose money and does not have any maintenance or service fees.

Because of our uncertain market, many members are moving money to the Knights for safekeeping. Our current MINIMUM interest rate on new accounts is 3.0% and is currently earning 4.0%.

We also have a special annuity product for members that want to deposit over \$25,000. It’s our Single Premium Deferred Annuity (aka Vantage). This product can lock in the current rate for 5 years, avoiding fluctuations in the market.

If you want to hear more about any of the above, please contact your field agent or our office.




Knights of Columbus
O'Keefe Agency

Edward A. O'Keefe, CLU, ChFC, CASL, CLF
General Agent & Financial Advisor

OFFICE: 443 231 6409 10101 Philadelphia Rd
edward.okeefe@kofc.org 2nd Floor
Baltimore, Md 21237

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Life Insurance • Long-Term Care Insurance
Retirement Annuities • Disability Income Insurance

Protecting Catholic Families Since 1882



Jon Rock- General Agent
Financial Advisor
301-788-8972
Jonathan.Rock@KofC.org



Maryland Knights In Action



Council 1442 Special Olympics Donation



Council 1442 Campus Ministry Support



Council 6021 Special Olympics Activity



Council 10046 Exemplification



Council 1384 Trivia Night



Council 18170 Sacred Heart Icon Celebration



Council 13859 Fish Fry



Council 16611 Sacred Heart Icon Celebration



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' Family Picnic



For **all** brother Knights and their families!
Bring a friend!

Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus - Maryland State Council

Saturday, May 16, 2026 ~ 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ~ Rain or Shine

Hamburgers

Hot Dogs

Sides

Desserts



Beer

Wine

Soda

Water

Seneca Creek State Park (Buck Picnic Shelter)
11950 Clopper Road, Gaithersburg, MD 20878

Fun for the Entire Family!

Door Prizes and Giveaways!

Adults and Children 10 and Older: \$10

Children Ages 6-9: \$8

Children 5 and Under: FREE

(Note: There is a park entrance fee of \$3 per person (MD resident) except for kids in car seats, Veterans, or MD State Park passholders)

Register online at: <https://tinyurl.com/mdstatepicnic> or call 301-490-4660

Send checks (made payable to MD State Council) no later than Sunday, May 3rd to:

Tim Lynch, Family Activities Director
11271 Old Hopkins Road
Clarksville, MD 21029



Marshmallows and Memories!

MD State Knights of Columbus Family Camping Trip

at Homestead Campground, Georgetown, DE



Friday - Sunday

June
5-7
2026

Join us for:

Camping fun!

Fellowship

Communal Meals

Swimming

Games and Prizes

Nightly Campfires

RSVP or for more information: Robert & Tracy Mayer
tracymayer0106@gmail.com



Both RV and tent sites available!

National Eucharistic Pilgrimage



Brother Knights,

The National Eucharistic Pilgrimage will travel through Maryland and the Archdiocese of Baltimore from the morning of June 9 to the morning of June 11 as part of the St. Frances Xavier Cabrini Route from Florida to Maine and then to Pennsylvania to honor the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence and celebration of “One Nation Under God.”

- Perpetual pilgrims will bring sacramental encounters with Christ through the Eucharist to a series of processions, public events, and service projects at stops throughout Maryland.
 - **Stops are planned in Boonsboro, Hagerstown, Baltimore, Severna Park, Annapolis, Easton, and Ocean City.** All Knights and their families are asked to renew the Church by inviting all to deepen their devotion to Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist and attend one of the processions or to spend a day with the Eucharist at a parish event. This is a great opportunity for Councils to participate and support the pilgrims on their trek across Maryland. Knights are needed to carry the canopy during the Eucharist Processions, and to provide support to pilgrims during the processions and at parish events. This will be coordinated by local Councils in each area, but all Knights are invited to participate as pilgrims anywhere along the route. Let's celebrate the Eucharist and the birthday of our great country.
- 
- Route details can be found at these links: **Archdiocese of Washington:** <https://web.cvent.com/event/0458e53d-a5e3-4a6c-67ab-61f4c52e7319/summary>. **Archdiocese of Baltimore:** <https://web.cvent.com/event/582ae7be-c110-4da0-9c67-f4d6656ed1be/summary>. **Diocese of Wilmington:** <https://web.cvent.com/event/c3a3e9ad-3014-49b2-947a-f856a5fac8cf/summary>.
 - **National Route Highlights.** The Patroness for the pilgrimage is St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, the first American citizen to be canonized. Pilgrims will begin their 2,000-mile journey on May 24 in the Diocese of St Augustine in Florida, where they will celebrate Mass near the site of the first Mass on American soil. They will travel through 18 dioceses on the East Coast and arrive in Maine on June 23 before heading south to Philadelphia over the Fourth of July weekend.
- 
- The pilgrimage coincides with the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence and the 75th anniversary of the Knights of Columbus' effort to add “One Nation Under God” to the Pledge of Allegiance. The pilgrimage also coincides with the U.S. bishops' call to consecrate America to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.
 - This pilgrimage extends the fruits of the three-year National Eucharistic Revival (2022–2024) and the 2024 National Eucharistic Congress. The four routes in 2024 engaged 250,000 participants. The 2025 pilgrimage engaged 500,000.
 - This is not a political event or focused on American nostalgia; it focuses on our posture to live under the sovereignty of the King of the Universe. Our nation is unfinished, itself on a pilgrimage. One Nation Under God claims that freedom itself requires acknowledgment of a higher moral authority than the state.
 - **Other Important links include: Archdiocese of Baltimore Eucharistic pilgrimage:** <https://www.archbalt.org.org/2026-eucharistic-pilgrimage>. **National Eucharistic Pilgrimage:** <https://www.eucharisticpilgrimage.org/>. **Perpetual pilgrims:** <https://www.eucharisticpilgrimage.org/pilgrims>. **Pilgrimage Registration:** <https://web.cvent.com/event/582ae7be-c110-4da0-9c67-f4d6656ed1be/register>.



SPECIAL OLYMPICS MARYLAND

11th-14th
JUNE
2026



SUMMER GAMES



SCAN HERE FOR
THE SUMMER
GAMES 2025 EVENT
GUIDE TO GET A
FEEL FOR THE
GAMES



SCAN HERE TO CHECK
OUT OUR VOLUNTEER
PAGE!
**SUMMER GAMES
REGISTRATION IS NOW
LIVE!**



SCAN HERE TO
CHECK OUT LAST
YEAR'S EVENT
RECAP VIDEOS!

BOCCE, ATHLETICS, SWIMMING, CHEER @ TOWSON UNIVERSITY
SOFTBALL @ KIWANIS WALLAS PARK, ELLICOT CITY, MD



WHY VOLUNTEER AT SUMMER GAMES?

SUMMER GAMES IS ONE OF SOMD'S LARGEST EVENTS OF THE YEAR AND WILL FEATURE 1250 ATHLETES FROM ALL ACROSS THE STATE OF MARYLAND COMPETING IN BOCCE, SOFTBALL, CHEERLEADING, SWIMMING, AND TRACK & FIELD. WITH WEEKEND LONG COMPETITIONS AND CELEBRATIONS, SUMMER GAMES HAS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!

CAN I BRING MY FRIEND, FAMILY, GROUP?

Absolutely! Summer Games has enough opportunities to accommodate large groups, whether a duo or a group of 45, there's room for everyone! We welcome volunteers as young as 8 w/a trusted adult. 13+ may begin volunteering on their own!

While sports knowledge is always a plus, no experience is needed to volunteer with Summer Games! All events will have an on-site training day of to get you ready to help with the competition/event! For Summer Games, many volunteers will be needed as timers, scorekeepers, athlete escorts, awards assistance, etc.

DO I NEED ANY SPECIAL SKILLS TO VOLUNTEER?

ALL SUMMER GAMES VOLUNTEERS RECEIVE:

- A Volunteer T-shirt
- Lunch
- Volunteer Service Hours Verification Letter



www.somd.org/volunteer/volunteer-opportunities







QUESTIONS?
EMAIL SBOYD@SOMD.ORG &
NARNETT@SOMD.ORG

REGISTER UNDER THE
"COMPETITIONS" TAB

CHOOSE YOUR OWN COURSE

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

ALL EVENTS ARE HELD AT TOWSON UNIVERSITY EXCEPT FOR THE SOFTBALL COMPETITION, HELD AT KIWANIS WALLAS PARK

	Thurs. Jun. 10th	Fri. June 11th	Sat. Jun. 12th	Sun. Jun. 14th
Cheerleading Towson Center	Set-Up 10AM-3PM	9AM-2PM		
Swimming Burdick Hall	Set-Up 10AM-3PM	11:30AM-4:30PM	7:30AM-3:30PM	7:30AM-3PM
Bocce Burdick Field	Set-Up 10AM-3PM			7:30AM-4PM
Athletics (Track & Field) Unitas Stadium	Set-Up 10AM-3PM			7:30AM-4PM
Softball			8AM-4PM	8AM-3PM



YOUNG ATHLETES PROGRAM

FRI. JUN. 11TH
5PM-6:30PM

Our Young Athletes Program focuses on all children, birth to age 8, with opportunities for play that focuses on development of gross motor skills.

BLOCK PARTY

FRI. JUN. 11TH
5PM-7PM

Block Party is a social event for all athletes featuring games, music, and more. An Olympic Park style event to get athletes ready for a great weekend!

OPENING CEREMONIES

FRI. JUN. 11TH
5:30PM-9PM

SOMD takes over SECU Arena for our Opening Ceremonies Celebration to officially begin Summer Games 2024! Volunteers are needed to help escort athletes into the arena as they represent their counties!

ATHLETE SOCIAL

SAT. JUN. 12TH
5PM-7PM

The Athlete Social is one of the premiere events of Summer Games! Featuring dancing, games, food, and more! Come join SOMD athletes on the dance floor for a themed night of fun!

Volunteer as much as you would like! All volunteers welcome to join us for the above social events! Be a part of the celebration of Summer Games!

SAVE THE DATE

**Maryland State Council Charity Fund
Fundraising Event
Pub Dog Pizza & Draft House
Columbia, MD
June 23, 2026**



The Maryland State Council Charity Fund is excited to partner with Pub Dog Pizza & Draft-house located at 8865 Stanford Blvd in Columbia, MD to hold a fundraiser benefiting its Financial Assistance Account on Tuesday, June 23rd from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.!



Pub Dog will donate 10% of all sales, both dine-in and carry-out, to the Financial Assistance Account. No flier required! Just show up with your family and friends to enjoy delicious craft pizza and house-brewed beer! 32-oz and 64-oz growlers are available so you can take your favorite beer to go!

The State Council Financial Assistance Account provides grants to residents of Maryland who finds themselves in urgent, temporary financial need. Since 1984, the State Council has granted nearly \$1.3 million to help individuals and families with expenses such as mortgage, rent, utilities, insurance premiums, car repairs, medical bills, disaster recovery, and final expenses for departed family members. Please join us for fun evening raising funds for a great cause!

Jimmy Williams, FDD, PGK, PFN

Chairman, Maryland State Council Financial Assistance Account



2025-2026



State Planning Calendar

UPDATED 4/16/26

MONTH	DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
MAY 2026	5/1-3	MD STATE COUNCIL CONVENTION	CROWNE PLAZA ANNAPOLIS, MD	E. PAUL JONES
	5/16	MD STATE PICNIC	SENECA CREEK STATE PARK GAITHERSBURG, MD	TIM LYNCH
	5/23	MD DISTRICT 4TH DEGREE EXEMPLIFICATION	PANGBORN ASSEMBLY HAGERSTOWN, MD	SK JIM DURYEE
	5/30	AWD 4TH DEGREE EXEMPLIFICATION	JESUS THE DIVINE WORD HUNTINGTON, MD	SK GUS GUSMAN
JUN 2026	6/5-7	MD STATE KofC FAMILY CAMPING TRIP	HOMESTEAD CAMPGROUND GEORGETOWN, DE	ROBERT & TRACY MAYER
	6/12-13	LEADERSHIP SEMINAR	HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC CHURCH DAVIDSONVILLE, MD	JEFFREY WILK
	6/27	STATE OFFICERS AND DISTRICT DEPUTY INSTALLATION	ST. HUGH OF GRENOBLE CHURCH GREENBELT, MD	JEFFREY WILK
AUG 2026	8/15	SALVEMINI TESTIMONIAL	COLUMBUS GARDENS	JEFFREY WILK