



## Frankly Speaking

### Merry Christmas, Brother Knights,

As we celebrate the birth of our Savior, I want to express my gratitude for your continued dedication, charity, and brotherhood throughout this year. Your service brings Christ's love into our parishes, our communities, and the lives of those who need it most.

May this holy season bring peace to your homes, joy to your families, and renewed strength to carry out our mission as Knights of Columbus.

From my family to yours, have a blessed and Merry Christmas and a joyful New Year!

Vivat Jesus!

Frank Carmona

State Deputy, Utah Knights of Columbus



## State Secretary

I sincerely hope that you had a Blessed Thanksgiving. It is hard to believe that 5 months have gone by, and Christmas and New Years will be here soon. "The momentum continues" in our state where we continue to break records because of your efforts and your commitment to grow the order in your councils and the state. As of Nov 26<sup>th</sup>, the Utah jurisdiction continues to sit at Number 1 in the order and has qualified for the coveted Supreme Pinnacle Award where we have achieved 120% of membership. Year to date, Utah has brought in 307 new members with 276 [89.9%] of these men transferring into councils to become active members of the order. Another key accomplishment is that **all councils have grown by at least one member** – so all of you are involved in this effort – Thank you.

Council achievements include 14 councils who have already met their membership goal, thus qualifying for the Father McGivney award and 6 of these councils are double star or higher. Additional congratulations go out GK Juan Arriaga and Council 7961 finishing **number 1** and GK Patrick Trimm and Council 18795 placing as number 16 in the Fisher's of men incentive. Utah leaderboard is provided in below chart - kudos to all! As a reminder, with all the growth that we have been experiencing, please review your online membership rosters, encourage your online prospects to complete the CUF and get them active in your councils. As of Nov 26<sup>th</sup>, we have 126 men that we can convert to active Utah Knights.

On October 22 and 23, the State membership team conducted a Church Drive at St. Francis Council 5214 in Kearns. Here, the team identified over 75 men who are interested in joining the knights. At midyear, Bill Mundy will present on available weekends for upcoming Church Drives over the next six months. So, start thinking when your council may want a Church Drive as weekends are filling up fast.

Thanks to PSD Bob Masse, Coats for Kids distribution is in full swing. As a reminder, please submit your Coats for Kids pledges or order payments as soon as you can to the State Secretary. If you need an invoice for record keeping send me a note.

Thank you to Membership Director Bill Mundy who is in process of distributing the Christmas buttons to DDs and councils – just in time for Christmas. In addition, Bill asked me to remind all of you to use his agent referral code "**WMundy**" when members complete the online membership application. Also, FSs start thinking about ordering membership cards and invoicing dues for next FY – just around the corner.

A couple of items not get included in last month's article due to file corruption that I will briefly cover here: We are making significant progress towards instating a new council at St. Anns in Salt Lake City. On Oct 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>, through the efforts of DD Richard Green, Membership Director Bill Mundy, and the Utah membership team we recruited 10 new men from the parish. On Nov 19<sup>th</sup>, we held and in person CUF where 6 members were brought into full knighthood. We are anticipating council institution in early 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter.

Thanks go out GK Dennis Robles and council 1136 who hosted the States Soccer Challenge on Oct 19<sup>th</sup> with a significant turn out from the youth. Also, shout out to PSD Chuck Dover who distributed of the state scholarship raffle tickets – if you have not received, please contact your DD or Chuck.

Lastly, the State's Financial Position Statement and Cash flow are in excellent shape. **All assemblies** and 31 councils have paid their per capita which enables us to support our programs without a financial barrier.

### Upcoming Significant Events include:

Midyear Meeting - January 10<sup>th</sup> at St. Francis Xavier, Kearns

Diocesan Science Fair – February 7<sup>th</sup> at Juan Diego High School, Draper

4<sup>th</sup> Degree Exemplification – February 28<sup>th</sup> at St. Francis of Assisi, Orem

Thank you for everything that you do for the Utah Knights. Wishing you, your families, and your councils a Blessed Christmas and best wishes for 2027.

Vivat Jesus!

Bill Kelly

State Secretary/IPSD

## Executive Secretary

*Have a Blessed Advent Season and a Joyous Christmas!*

### Mid-Year Meeting

JANUARY 10, 2026

St Francis Xavier Parish, Kearns

The Brothers of Bishop Hunt Council 5214 will be providing the food for the District Deputy Meeting on Friday as well as Breakfast and Saturday on Saturday (THANK YOU!).

**Please notify State Treasurer Chad Vargo ([chadvargo.koc@gmail.com](mailto:chadvargo.koc@gmail.com)) if you plan to attend. The Brothers of 5214 need to know how much food to prepare!**

*We will be using lunch to have a whiteboard session where we can bounce around ideas on how we can grow our state, not only in terms of manpower, but in what we can do for our families, parishes, youth and communities.*

Viva Christo Rey!

Doug Shane, Executive Secretary

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## State Council Advisor

### Things to accomplish this Month:

- Conduct, if applicable: Catholic Essay Contest, Keep Christ in Christmas events, Coats for Kids
- Submit a Fraternal Programs Report Form (#10784) for each program conducted this month
- Consecration to the Holy Family
- Pilgrim Icon
- Food for Families
- Family of the Month
- Ask someone to join your council.

### Plan Ahead:

- Which prospect(s) will you invite to activities?
- Plan ahead for programs taking place this winter.
- Assemble and prepare the information needed to complete your Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity (#1728) and to submit by the deadline (1/31).
- Is your council on track to earn the Star Council Award?
- 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Knights of Columbus Diocesan Science Fair

- Free Throw Championship
- Prepare the information needed to report participation in the Special Olympics program through the #10784 form (1/31)

Bill McCauley

[williammccauley@comcast.net](mailto:williammccauley@comcast.net)

## Program Director

Supreme has introduced eight new programs for this Fraternal Year! Please go online to <https://www.kofc.org/en/what-we-do/faith-in-action-programs> for detailed information or contact the appropriate State Program Director for information. Try to incorporate some of these programs in 2026.

### Community

The **Bright Futures** program invites councils to support the students and schools in their communities. Too often, youth face significant barriers to their educational success. Councils can help by providing funding and resources to those most in need.

The **Celebrating Our Catholic Heritage** program encourages councils to celebrate the cultures and traditions of their parish communities. This program aims to educate, inspire, and unite the community while celebrating the deep-rooted faith and cultural heritage of its members.

### Faith

The **¡Viva Cristo Rey!** program celebrates the sanctity of the Mexican Martyrs, including members of the Knights of Columbus, who were killed for their faith during the religious persecution of Catholics by the Mexican government in the early 20th century. During the persecution, which led to “La Cristiada,” or the “Cristero War,” priests, missionaries and members of religious orders were expelled from the country, more than a million Mexicans migrated to the United States seeking refuge and others spontaneously organized to defend themselves against government oppression, some peacefully and others taking up arms under the banner of “Cristo Rey y Santa María de Guadalupe” or “Christ the King and Holy Mary of Guadalupe.

The **Imitating Saint Juan Diego** program encourages councils to promote devotion to St. Juan Diego and Our Lady of Guadalupe. As Knights of Columbus, whose patroness is Our Lady of Guadalupe, we are called to be her messengers, just as St. Juan Diego was throughout his life.

### Family

#### QUINCEAÑERA SUPPORT

A quinceañera is a celebration, common in Hispanic cultures, that marks the passage of a 15-year-old young woman from childhood to adulthood. These celebrations can include Mass or prayer, music, dancing, food and other festivities. Ideally, the celebration should include the young woman and her family thanking God for the life she has lived and asking for His blessing going forward.

The **Remembering Our Faithful Departed** program calls upon councils to honor and pray for the deceased members of their council, families, and parish community. By commemorating the dearly departed, and asking for the intercession of the saints, Knights can help others overcome the grief that accompanies the death of a loved one, strengthen family bonds, promote the unique cultural and religious traditions of their parishes, and help the suffering souls in purgatory.

## Life

The **Gospel of Life** program encourages Knights to educate themselves and others on the sanctity of life from conception to natural death. The goal of the program is to equip Catholic men and their parish communities with the knowledge they need to defend human life, especially by studying St. John Paul II's historic encyclical *Evangelium Vitae* (Latin for "Gospel of Life").

The **Holy Hour for Life with Our Lady of Guadalupe** program calls upon councils to organize adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and ask for Our Lady of Guadalupe's intercession for the pro-life cause.

## Faith Director

The Church's liturgical season of Christmas is one of its shortest, but also one of its most unique. Within it is the eight-day celebration of the Lord's Nativity — known as the Christmas octave — as well as other feasts pertaining to the manifestation that Jesus is Lord of the nations. And there are feasts of several saints, many of whose stories contain special significance to the season.



## Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest

Brothers,

We are winding down the Citizenship Essay Contest. See below for assignment and due dates. This is a Faith in Action – Community Program. It encourages youth to become citizens grounded in their Faith through creative writing and is open to all qualifying Catholic students. This contest encourages today's youth to be more connected to their community and Faith.

Virtue is a habitual and firm disposition to do good. It governs our acts, orders our passions, and guides our conduct by reason and faith. It also encourages Christians to live in a relationship with the Holy Trinity. The call to live a virtuous life applies to individuals in every state of life and occupation, including our elected leaders.

Councils can determine their own prizes of cash and/or certificates and/or something else. The State will award certificates and an award for \$50, \$30, or \$20 for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winning essays in each grade.

Please contact schools, parish families, and home school groups as soon as possible to promote this program. Maybe your Council could even advertise the contests in your parish bulletin or online website. This contest is open to all the Catholic youth in your parish, in the 8<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> Grade. Your Council will be amazed at the beautiful write-ups you receive. For more information, please review the program's [Guidebook](#).

The office of the papacy was established by Jesus Christ nearly 2,000 years ago when He chose St. Peter to lead His Church on earth. This year's topic is:

In an essay of 500-750 words, **out of the 267 popes that have led the Catholic Church, who are your three favorite popes and why?**

<b><i>Due dates:</i></b>	<b><i>Essay</i></b>
<b><i>Sent to Council for Judging</i></b>	<b><i>11/30/2025</i></b>
<b><i>1st place winners to District</i></b>	<b><i>12/15/2025</i></b>
<b><i>District winners to State</i></b>	<b><i>1/10/2026</i></b>

Councils can determine their own prizes of cash and/or certificates and/or something else. The State will award certificates and an award for \$50, \$30, or \$20 for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winning essays in each grade. Remember, this is a Faith in Action Community Program.

Entrants will be judged on grammar, style, and how clearly they present the theme in a way that showcases creativity, imagination and overall development of the topic. In this age of AI, judges should pay special interest to the creativity of the student.

Bill McCauley  
Catholic Citizenship Essay Chairman  
[williamccauley@comcast.net](mailto:williamccauley@comcast.net)

## Life Director – John Porter

Greetings and an additional reminder why we Catholics are Pro-Life.

### ***Missing Women from Abortion and Infanticide Since 2000***

*The phenomenon of "missing women" is largely attributed to sex-selective abortions, female infanticide, and various forms of gender bias in societies. Since the year 2000, estimates indicate that there may be between 90 to over 160 million women missing globally due to these factors.*

## December Life Updates

**Holy Hour for Life with Our Lady of Guadalupe – NEW PROGRAM!** *Recommended for December 12<sup>th</sup>.*

The Holy Hour for Life with Our Lady of Guadalupe calls upon councils to organize adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and a special prayer service to ask for Our Lady's intercession for the pro-life cause. As Patroness of the unborn, Our Lady is a powerful advocate for those at-risk of abortion and all those involved in the cause of life. Through this Holy Hour, councils and their parishes can pray for a variety of intentions such as

healing from infertility, defense of the unborn, care for mothers and families, and an end to the evil of abortion.

<https://www.kofc.org/en/resources/faith-in-action-programs/life/holy-hour-for-life/11755-holy-hour-olog-guidesheet.pdf>

### Novena for Life

Encourage councils to participate in the USCCB's 9 Days for Life from **January 16-24**.

<https://www.kofc.org/en/resources/faith-in-action-programs/life/novena-for-life/10622-novena-for-life-guidesheet.pdf>

Further resources are available for promoting and sharing the novena in your parish, school, or ministry.

Website to sign up: <https://www.respectlife.org/9-days-signup>

**Please continue to pray for the souls of the so, so, many, particularly the missing girls.**

**Is your Council planning a Life event?** If so, please notify me as well as our State Program Director John Carty of any upcoming Life events your Councils may have planned for the months ahead.

For SLC diocesan Respect Life information, events, and more, see here: <https://www.dioslc.org/respect-for-life/events-calendar>

For information from Supreme on Life Programs, visit [www.kofc.org/life](http://www.kofc.org/life)

Vivat Jesus!

John Porter

Life Director, Utah

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## In Memoriam

My Brother Utah Knights. It is with sincere regret that I must report the deaths of five of our Brother Knights since the publication of our last newsletter in Sep25.

Lname	Fname	Council	DOD	Member	Service
Illario	Clarence S.	6966	11/18/2025	3175422	PGK, SK2577, Hon Life, 31Yrs

***“Eternal rest grant upon them and may perpetual light shine upon them.”***


Please say a Hail Mary in honor of these men and their families when you finish reading this.

Bill Kelly, PSD  
State Secretary

## Membership Director



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