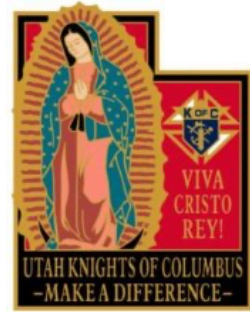


## March- Utah State Council Bulletin Volume 26, Issue 3



### Frankly Speaking

“Change isn’t easy—but refusing to change is even harder”. -Frank Carmona

Over the past three and a half years, Wild Bill Kelly and I have made changes to the Utah Knights of Columbus that some of you love, some of you hate, and some of you honestly don’t care about at all—and that’s okay. Every decision we’ve made has had one goal: to make the State of Utah stronger, better organized, and run like a well-oiled machine. We may be small fish swimming in a big Catholic pond—but let me be clear: we are no small fish. Breaking records and being the monkey on top of the coconut tree isn’t easy—but it sure is fun.

A Brother Knight once told me, “All you care about is being on top and being the best in the Order, no matter who gets hurt or how you do it.” He was 100% wrong. I care deeply about every one of my Brother Knights. The hardest part of my job has never been pushing for excellence—it’s been having to remove a former Brother Knight because of conduct or behavior that didn’t reflect who we are. That’s never easy, and it’s never done lightly.

Yes, I want Utah to be #1 in the Order—why wouldn’t I? Why wouldn’t I want your council to recruit new members who will carry the torch when you step down, get ill, or someday pass on to our Heavenly reward?

FVSM Chuck Dover, Jr. once told me, “I put my life into this organization, and I want to leave it better than I found it.” That stuck with me. I want to be like Brother Chuck. I want to serve my brothers fully—and leave it all on the table.

So, my brothers, change is coming. And for those who don’t like it, I respectfully ask you to step aside and allow those who do to step forward and make this “Utah Thing of Ours” even better for the future.

And look where we are today: #1 in the Order with 190% membership growth. Now let’s dream bigger. Why not 250%? Why not raise the bar just a little higher for those who will follow us? There’s no point playing in the sandbox if you’re not going to give it your all.

With that said, I want to share something important. I will not be seeking reelection as State Deputy at our State Convention in April 2026. However, I strongly ask for your support of our Executive Secretary, Douglas Shane, PSD. Doug served as State Deputy over 15 years ago, and he is absolutely the right leader to continue the momentum Wild

Bill and I started four years ago. He understands growth the right way—building real councils with real members, not just names on paper. Much of our success has come from his wisdom, guidance, and years of service as PSD and Executive Secretary.

As for me, don't worry, I'm not disappearing. I'll finally receive the position I've been "running for" the last eight years: IPSD. I'll still be involved with the State in many ways and will always be here to help however I can.

We've got more changes coming—so stay tuned. Life has a funny way of throwing curveballs... just be ready to swing.

I love you all. God bless you, your families, and your councils. And don't forget—you still have four more months of me bugging you, laughing with you, and enjoying every moment with each and every one of you.

Vivat Jesus!  
Viva Cristo Rey!  
And God Bless America!  
Fraternally yours,  
Frank Carmona, KHS-FMFD  
Utah State Deputy



## State Secretary Bill Kelly

### REQUESTED STATE PROGRAM CONTRIBUTIONS

The State convention will occur in 2 months, and we would like to remind councils of voluntary contributions to State Program Funds. There are 5 funds that you council may contribute to:

Christopher Fund  
Vocations Fund  
Military Vocations Fund  
Culture of Life Fund  
Scholarship Fund

Contributions to these funds are voluntary. For those of you who already contributed, thank you for your continuing generosity. Please send your fund contributions to SS Bill Kelly (11533 South Thornberry Court Draper, UT 84020-9416) payable to "KofC Utah State Council" before April 12. This will enable us to determine the correct amounts to present at the state convention dinner. Should you require further information on these state programs, please contact Bill Kelly.

### PERPETUAL MEMORIAL BOOK

Upon completion of the March Newsletter update, SS Bill Kelly will send out the FY25-26 Necrology Report. We will ask councils and assemblies to review this listing for completeness and accuracy as these deceased brothers will be recognized at the memorial Mass.

In addition to mass recognition, the state has a Perpetual Memorial Book where we record the names and family and friends who have passed on. During in person Knights of Columbus Masses (Convention, Organization, Mid-Year meetings), we carry the memorial book to the altar to remember and pray for loved ones. For entry(ies) into the Perpetual Memorial Book, the State Council requests a nominal donation of \$10 for each entry. The funds collected for the Perpetual Memorial Book are placed in the State's Scholarship Fund. Please email requests for Perpetual Memorial Book entry to SD Frank Carmona (carmona3169@gmail.com) and SS Bill Kelly (kellywbill@msn.com). Please send donations to SS Bill Kelly.

### CONVENTION CREDENTIALS

Credentials for the Utah State Convention, 24-25 May 26 are now due! Please identify your 2 primary and 2 alternate delegates and email to SS Bill Kelly & ES Doug Shane (zetakappa288@msn.com). Convention credentials are necessary to determine the Utah State Council voting body and identify delegates who will serve on convention committees. The State sent out convention credential format on 31Jan. If you did not receive, please contact Bill Kelly.



## Assistant State Secretary/Executive Secretary - Doug Shane

### CONVENTION DEADLINES

Scholarships – Complete online form no later than 3/15/2026.

Delegates – Send Delegate forms to State Secretary Bill Kelly no later than 3/15/2026.

State Awards – Send applications to State Deputy Frank Carmona no later than 3/15/2026.

- Blessed Michael McGivney Award (Formerly Pastor of the Year)
- Knight of the Year
- Family of the Year
- Service Program Awards
  - Life
  - Family
  - Faith
  - Community

Letter of Intent for State Office – Send to State Deputy Frank Carmona no later than 3/15/2026

## State Convention Chairman – Bob Diaz

### STATE CONVENTION UPDATE

The 119th Utah State Knights of Columbus Convention will be held on Friday April 24 and Saturday April 25, in South Jordan, Utah. Please consider joining your fellow Brother Knights for a great Convention, a Luau, a Banquet, a Casino Night, and socializing with your Brothers. We have Lady Activities planned and the Biannual 4th degree meeting will also be held in South Jordan on Sunday April 26.

To reserve a room at the Embassy Suites South Jordan at a great rate click on the link below. We only have a block of 50 rooms so register soon.

<https://group.embassysuites.com/ivout2>

To attend the Luau, the Saturday Dinner, Ladies Activities, and reserve your lunch on Saturday, click on the link below. Deadline to make meal reservations is April 16, 2026.

<https://www.cognitofrms.com/UtahKnights1/2026KnightsOfColumbusUtahStateConvention>

You can also support the Convention by placing an Ad, becoming a Sponsor, sponsoring the Hospitality Suite, and donating a prize basket for the Casino Night. Click on the link below to place an Ad, become a Sponsor, and/or sponsor the Hospitality Suite. If you can donate a basket, please email Bob Diaz at [bobdiaz79@gmail.com](mailto:bobdiaz79@gmail.com)

link for Ads, individual sponsors and hospitality room sponsors:

<https://www.cognitofrms.com/UtahKnights1/2026UTKofCConventionAdvertising>

any questions, please contact Robert "Bob" Diaz at 208-685-9726 or email Bob at [bobdiaz79@gmail.com](mailto:bobdiaz79@gmail.com)



## IN MEMORIAM

My Brother Utah Knights. It is with sincere regret that I must report the deaths of nine of our Brother Knights during the last quarter.

Lname	Fname	Council	DOD	Member	Service
Baker	Kenneth	10733	1/13/2026	4540667	3 deg , 13 Yrs
Brown	James S.	6966	11/20/2025	1939822	1Deg, 15 Yrs.
Desegura-Gomez	Santiago	7961	1/21/2026	2386852	1 Deg, HonLife 42 yrs
Fitzgerald	Joseph P.	MSGNR 602	1/14/2026	612785	SK1144, HonLife 66 yrs; clergy 63 yrs
Garcia	Rudy	7961	1/14/2026	2288496	1Deg, 4 Yrs.
Illario	Clarence S.	6966	11/18/2025	3175422	PGK, SK2577, HonLife, 31
Masse,	L. Michael	5214	12/22/2025	3366947	1 Deg, 30Yrs
Meza	Timothy C.	9849	2/16/2026	3307867	3 deg, 28 Yrs
Onstott	Leroy E.	6010	12/17/2025	1343848	SK 1429, HonLife 55

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

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

Bill Kelly, PSD  
State Secretary



## Youth Activities Results

KCIC POSTER				
	ENTRY #	KINDERGARTEN	DD#	Council
1st Place	246	TERESA GAROFALO	9	14399
2nd Place	245	GWEN JASKIERNY	3	6966
3rd Place				
		GRADE 1-2		
1st Place	247	CHARLOTTE CARR	3	6966
2nd Place	249	MEADOW LARRABEE	2	5502
3rd Place	248	VICTORIA DELGADO	9	6010
		GRADE 3-4		
1st Place	251	ELSIE SIMONS	3	6966
2nd Place	252	SUNNY GINTER	2	5502
3rd Place	253	LUCAS GOMM	10	15418
		GRADE 5-6		
1st Place	258	DANIEL SANTANA	3	6966
2nd Place	263	ALAN CORNEJO	9	6010
3rd Place	260	ANNA GARDNER	10	15418
		GRADE 7-8		
1st Place	265	MARLO FRANCO	3	6966
2nd Place	266	ISABELLA MARTINEZ	2	5502
3rd Place	268	KIMEBERLY CORNEJO	9	6010
		CITIZENSHIP ESSAY		
1st Place	810	Sophia Rosas	7	10733
1st Place	92	Jessalyn Santiago-Cruz	7	10733
1st Place	10	Jax Torres	7	10733
1st Place	114	Karina Garcia Matias	7	10733
1st Place	121	Lizbeth Vega	9	6010
2nd Place	122	Allisson Cortes-Avila	7	10733

# Catholic students explore big questions at Diocesan Science Fair

Linda Petersen  
Intermountain Catholic

DRAPER — Students from 13 Utah Catholic schools showcased their exploration of the natural world at Juan Diego Catholic High School in Draper on Feb. 7 during the annual Diocesan Science & Engineering Fair.

The event, celebrating its 30th year of sponsorship by the Utah Knights of Columbus, highlighted the dedication of students, teachers and volunteers committed to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) education within a faith-based environment.

Science fair organizer Dr. Christine Celestino, JDCHS vice principal, noted that the number of participants, which this year was 178, has returned to pre-pandemic levels.

Participating in the fair can benefit students, Celestino added. "I'm hoping that they're going to walk away from this experience more confident, with more self-confidence that they're able to tackle big questions. Participating in the fair is an important educational experience for the students."

The projects at the science fair ranged from fundamental questions to sophisticated, high-level research. For instance, Tinslee Kirchbach, a 10-year-old fifth-grader from St. Marguerite Catholic School in Tooele, tested an electric motor.

"I'm really happy to be here and I'm excited to see what's going to be ahead of me," said Tinslee, who was participating in her first diocesan fair.



**A student answers questions from a judge about her project at the Diocesan Science & Engineering Fair.**

IC photo/Linda Petersen

Other students focused on practical, real-life applications. Poppie Kail, a 12-year-old seventh-grader from Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School in Salt Lake City, investigated environmental solutions by creating edible

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**Students from across the diocese brought their best efforts to the Diocesan Science & Engineering Fair.**

# FAIR

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water bottles out of materials like cookie dough and seaweed.

People could purchase water in one of these containers and when finished could consume it, so that it would not end up in the ocean like many plastic bottles do, Poppie said, noting that while the seaweed bottle held up best, the cookie dough version tasted much better.

Sophia Sanchez, 12, a student at Saint John the Baptist Middle School in Draper, tackled a social issue by studying the effects of social media on kids.

"I chose this project because I'm really interested in human behavior; I think it's fascinating how people's brains work," Sophia said. "And people are always telling me social media is bad for you, so I had to find out for myself."

Her research showed that social media often causes more stress as children get older, but that it can also be used as a positive reward system.

Many students explored creative questions using everyday items. For example, one student asked "Which Sock is the Hottest?" and tested how different materials retain heat. Another project, titled "Slippery Science," investigated friction on different surfaces. On a different tack was the experiment "Thinking to the Beat," which tested if the tempo of music affects how quickly a person can solve problems.

Emma Ashby, a student from Blessed Sacrament Cath-

olic School in Sandy, was named the Young Scientist of the Year for her project "A Prehistoric Native American Petroglyph that Aligns with Equinoxes, Solstices, and the Pole Star."

This year, the Knights of Columbus introduced the "Frances Lavoie Culture of Life" trophy, recognizing projects that ethically deal with pro-life issues. Previously the winner of the award received a certificate. This year the award, sponsored by past Utah Knights of Columbus State Deputy Andy Airriess in honor of his mother-in-law, was given to Juan Diego CHS students Sarah Leng and Paul Claudon for their project "Generating a PD-1 CAR Construct for Use in CAR-Treg Therapy."

Additionally, the fair introduced a new category for computational methods and computer engineering to encourage coding and robotics. St. John the Baptist Middle School student Jad Alharethi won this award for his project "GPT 5: Fact or Fiction."

The overall quality of the entries was extremely high, according to Bill McCauley, Utah Knights of Columbus fair organizer. He noted that one judge, a former participant himself, was amazed to find a seventh-grader conducting an experiment equivalent to work he himself did as a college sophomore.

The majority of students who entered the fair will go on to represent their schools at the University of Utah Science & Engineering Fair March 10-13.

To commemorate the 30th anniversary, the Utah Knights commissioned a special challenge coin, which they presented to participants, judges, volunteers and staff.

## 2026 Diocesan Science and Engineering Fair Awards

The 2026 Diocesan Science & Engineering Fair, held Feb. 7 at Juan Diego Catholic High School, drew 178 students from 13 Utah Catholic Schools. The top winners of the event, which has been sponsored by the Utah Knights of Columbus for 30 years, follow.

### **Young Scientist of the Year**

Emma Ashby, Blessed Sacrament

### **Special Awards**

**Frances Lavoie Culture of Life**

Sarah Leng and Paul Claudon, Juan Diego

**Most Unique Visual Display**

Corinne Gray, J.E. Cosgriff Memorial

**Best Working Model**

Tyce Sanders, St. John the Baptist

**Best Oral Presentation**

Ella Lanspa, J.E. Cosgriff Memorial

**Best Use of Mathematics**

Catherine Fuller, St. John the Baptist

### **Overall Category Awards**

**Behavioral and Social Science**

Drake Stitzer, St. Francis Xavier

### **Biology, Microbiology, and Genetics**

Ella Lanspa, J.E. Cosgriff Memorial

### **Chemistry and Biochemistry**

Olivia Stewart, St. John the Baptist

### **Computer Science and Computational Methods**

Jad Alharethi, St. John the Baptist

### **Earth and Environmental Science/Engineering**

Lev Burtsev, Our Lady of Lourdes

### **Engineering—Civil, Electrical, Mechanical or Materials**

Corinne Gray, J.E. Cosgriff Memorial

### **Medicine, Health Science, and Biomedical Engineering**

Catherine Fuller, St. John the Baptist

### **Physics, Astronomy, and Mathematics**

Emma Ashby, Blessed Sacrament

### **Overall Grade Awards**

*5th Grade Overall:* Lincoln Done, St. Marguerite

*5th Grade Honorable Mention:* Elias Chandler and Westley Jimenez, St. Marguerite

*6th Grade Overall:* Emma Ashby, Blessed Sacrament

*6th Grade Honorable Mention:* Drake Stitzer, St. Francis

see RESULTS p. 10

# RESULTS

continued from p. 8

Xavier

*7th Grade Overall:* Katherine Lanspa, J.E. Cosgriff Me-

cy Scovil, St. Olaf; *fourth place:* Charlotte Flaherty, O Lady of Lourdes

### **Earth and Environmental Science/Engineering**

*First place:* Katherine Lanspa, J.E. Cosgriff Memorial; *second place:* Penelope (Poppy) Kail, Our Lady

Lourdes; *third place:* Gavin Hayes, St. John the Baptist

morial

*7th Grade Honorable Mention:* Olivia Stewart, St. John the Baptist

*8th Grade Overall:* Lev Burtsev, Our Lady of Lourdes

*8th Grade Honorable Mention:* Nathan Rivet, St. John the Baptist

**Fifth- and Sixth-Grade Awards  
Behavioral and Social Science**

*First place:* Drake Stitzer, St. Francis Xavier; *second place:* Mackenzie Doveton, St. John the Baptist; *third place:* Avery Stever, St. John the Baptist Middle; *fourth place:* Sofia Sanchez E, St. John the Baptist

**Biology, Microbiology, and Genetics**

*First place:* Connor Vargo, St. Francis Xavier; *second place:* Clara Godoy, St. Francis Xavier; *third place:* Reneeclaira Omale, St. Francis Xavier; *fourth place:* Cecilia Miller, St. Francis Xavier

**Chemistry and Biochemistry**

*First place:* Maximus Padilla, St. Francis Xavier; *second place:* Mya Gill, St. John the Baptist; *third place:* Isla Coan, St. John the Baptist; *fourth place:* Zachary Julian, Blessed Sacrament

**Earth and Environmental Science/Engineering**

*First place:* Naya Alharethi, St. John the Baptist; *second place:* Maddox Peirce, Blessed Sacrament; *third place:* Zach Beall, St. John the Baptist; *fourth place:* Berlin Hansen, Blessed Sacrament

**Engineering—Civil, Electrical, Mechanical or Materials**

*First place:* Diarmuid Arndt, St. John the Baptist; *second place:* Sienna Andersen, St. John the Baptist; *third*

**Engineering—Civil, Electrical, Mechanical or Materials**

*First place:* Mae Mastrorocco, J.E. Cosgriff Memorial; *second place:* Smera Nair, St. John the Baptist; *third place:* Caden Farr, St. John the Baptist; *fourth place:* Kai Shaw, St. John the Baptist

**Medicine, Health Science, and Biomedical Engineering**

*First place:* Lia Vazquez, St. John the Baptist; *second place:* Emmaline Sloan, Our Lady of Lourdes; *third place:* Haven Harding, Our Lady of Lourdes; *fourth place:* Sadie Long, St. John the Baptist

**Physics, Astronomy, and Mathematics**

*First place:* Alexander Sharp, J.E. Cosgriff Memorial; *second place:* Michael McLachlan, St. John the Baptist; *third place:* Isabella Martinez, St. Olaf; *fourth place:* Camila Morales, St. John the Baptist

**Eighth-Grade Awards**

**Behavioral and Social Science**

*First place:* Ava Busch, St. Vincent de Paul; *second place:* Andrea Allred, St. Vincent de Paul; *third place:* Haylin Chong, St. Vincent de Paul; *fourth place:* Joshua Neely, St. Joseph

**Biology, Microbiology, and Genetics**

*First place:* Ella Lanspa, J.E. Cosgriff Memorial; *second place:* Bella Newton, St. John the Baptist; *third place:* Lauren Hildebrand, J.E. Cosgriff Memorial; *fourth place:* Ishan Singh, St. John the Baptist

**Chemistry and Biochemistry**

*First place:* Jad Alharethi, St. John the Baptist; *second place:* Grace Summers, St. Vincent de Paul; *third place:* Julian Allen, St. Vincent de Paul

*place:* Violet Jenkins, St. Marguerite; *fourth place:* Luis Dariel Gamez-Marcial, St. Francis Xavier

**Medicine, Health Science, and Biomedical Engineering**

*First place:* Lincoln Enright, St. John the Baptist; *second place:* Elijah Phillip, St. Francis Xavier; *third place:* Aglae Salinas, St. Francis Xavier; *fourth place:* Stella Cutler, St. John the Baptist

**Physics, Astronomy, and Mathematics**

*First place:* Emma Ashby, Blessed Sacrament; *second place:* Elias Chandler and Westley Jimenez, St. Marguerite

**Seventh-Grade Awards**

**Behavioral and Social Science**

*First place:* Paisley Hansen, St. Joseph; *second place:* Lily Edmondson, St. Joseph; *third place:* Zoe Claudon, St. John the Baptist; *fourth place:* Sofia Flanery, St. John the Baptist

**Biology, Microbiology, and Genetics**

*First place:* Aidan Joe, St. John the Baptist Middle; *second place:* Aviran Rahman, St. John the Baptist; *third place:* Mia Chaponnel, J.E. Cosgriff Memorial; *fourth place:* Amarah Paul, St. John the Baptist

**Chemistry and Biochemistry**

*First place:* Olivia Stewart, St. John the Baptist; *second place:* Elle Breen, St. John the Baptist; *third place:* Dar-

**Earth and Environmental Science/Engineering**

*First place:* Lev Burtsev, Our Lady of Lourdes; *second place:* Ashley Taylor, St. Vincent de Paul; *third place:* Maggie Hanna, Our Lady of Lourdes; *fourth place:* Clara Wolf, St. Joseph

**Engineering—Civil, Electrical, Mechanical or Materials**

*First place:* Corinne Gray, J.E. Cosgriff Memorial; *second place:* Tyce Sanders, St. John the Baptist; *third place:* Porter Green, St. Vincent de Paul; *fourth place:* Calvin Simon, J.E. Cosgriff Memorial

**Medicine, Health Science, and Biomedical Engineering**

*First place:* Catherine Fuller, St. John the Baptist; *second place:* Ruby Newlin, J.E. Cosgriff Memorial; *third place:* Vaughn Diaz, St. John the Baptist; *fourth place:* Charlotte Meyer, J.E. Cosgriff Memorial

**Physics, Astronomy, and Mathematics**

*First place:* Nathan Rivet, St. John the Baptist; *second place:* Abigail VanDongen, St. Olaf; *third place:* Makena Ramos, St. John the Baptist; *fourth place:* Chase Fairbanks, St. John the Baptist

**High School Awards**

*First place:* Jaeden Pena, Juan Diego CHS; *second place:* Sarah Leng and Paul Claudon, Juan Diego CHS; *third place:* Ethan Bo, Judge Memorial CHS; *fourth place:* Becket Evans, Juan Diego CHS

