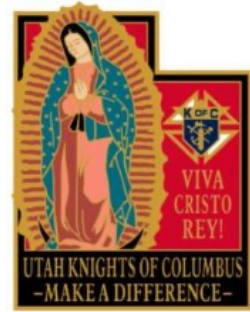


May - Utah State Council Bulletin Volume 26, Issue 5

Frankly Speaking



Brothers and Utah Council Leaders,

What a remarkable convention this has been. As I sit here at the Salt Lake City airport—still thinking about the 100 pounds of chicken prepared for the Newman Center, and even more so about the time spent in the company of my brother Knights at the 119th Convention—I find myself reflecting with deep gratitude on what an incredible journey this has been.

Together, we have achieved something truly extraordinary. Utah stands at 225% of membership, ranking number one in the world among 75 jurisdictions. We are home to the number one council in the world at an astounding 1960% of membership. That is nothing short of inspiring. We have also reached our 4th Degree membership goal in our province, again placing us at the top, and we are blessed with the world's top recruiting field agent, William Mundy, who brought in 283 new brothers this year.

This is not just success—it is a legacy. Councils across Utah are performing at levels we have never seen before, with over 90% achieving Star Council status. But let me be clear: this has not been easy work, and it does not end on June 30th, 2026. What we have built is not a moment—it is a movement. A new standard. A path forward. And I hope each of you is ready to continue this journey together.

To our newly elected State Officers, I offer my heartfelt congratulations. I have every confidence that you will not only carry this forward but elevate it even further. To State Deputy Elect Douglas Shane: build your team with care and intention. Choose wisely, lead with courage, and never hesitate to make the changes that are needed. Be fair but be firm. Lead not for recognition, but for the good of the Order. Trust your heart, stand strong in your convictions, and always speak the truth.

“Non nobis, Domine, non nobis, sed Nomini tuo da gloriam.”
“Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to Thy name give the glory.”

Thank you, my brothers, for your dedication, your sacrifice, and your unwavering faith. It has been an honor to serve alongside you.

God bless you all, and God bless your families.

Viva Cristo Rey!

Frank Carmona, KHS
Outgoing Utah State Deputy

2026-2027 State Officer Team

The following Brothers were elected at the recent State Convention to serve as your State Officer Team for the upcoming Fraternal Year.

- State Deputy Elect - Doug Shane (St. Teresa of Calcutta Council 12181)
- State Chaplain Fr. Gabriel Mosher (Fr. Thomas Kraft Council 14764)
- State Secretary Elect - Chad Vargo (Bishop Hunt Council 5214)
- State Treasurer Elect - Steve Gerichs (Bishop Hunt Council 5214)
- State Advocate Elect - Dan Quintanilla (Fr. Thomas Kraft Council 14764)
- State Warden Elect - Steve Sevier (St. Rose of Lima Council 6010)
- Immediate Past State Deputy Frank Carmona (Fr. Thomas Kraft Council 14764)

Blessed Michael J McGivney Award



The Blessed Michael McGivney award is named for the founder of our order, Blessed Michael J McGivney and is presented to the individual voted the outstanding council Chaplain in Utah. The 2026 Blessed Michael McGivney Award goes to Rev. Sebastian Chacko from Bishop Hunt Council 5214 in Kearns.

Father Sebastian's life is a powerful testament to a lifelong commitment to priestly service and missionary discipleship. Born in India, he entered a minor seminary at the age of 12, answering God's call early in life. Ordained to the priesthood in 1976, he now celebrates 49 years of faithful ministry. His pastoral service has spanned the globe, including assignments throughout India, three countries in Africa, Western Samoa, American Samoa, and Hawaii. Even after retiring at age 68, he continued to serve—assisting parishes in New Zealand and Australia and ministering as an Army chaplain. As he humbly reminds us, "I don't see a reason to retire completely. I still have energy and still have things to contribute."

At St. Francis Xavier Parish, Father Sebastian is a true shepherd to the community. He celebrates nearly half of the parish Masses, serves as Council Chaplain, offers school Masses, and actively supports parish and Knights of Columbus activities, including Sunday coffee and donuts, Spanish breakfasts, bingo, barbecues, and hospital ministry. He is also a trusted spiritual advisor to many Knights. Through both word and action, Father Sebastian demonstrates that faith is lived through service, leadership through humility, and priesthood through selfless dedication to God's people—embodying the very spirit of Blessed Michael J. McGivney.

Family of the Year



Family is the reason the Knights of Columbus even exist. The need to support and keep families together was the reason the Knights of Columbus was founded. The 2026 Family of the Year Award is Brother Kevin Lopez, his wife Amanda and their family from Blessed Sacrament Council 6966.

The Knights of Columbus Family of the Year Award celebrates faith, charity, and service. This year, we are honored to recognize a dedicated loving couple for their unwavering commitment to their church, community, and family. Their dedication to serving others perfectly embodies the core principles of the Knights of Columbus. Amanda and Kevin Lopez have built a foundation of faith and love within their family. Kevin and Amanda exemplify a Catholic family rooted in faith, service, and commitment to community. Both Utah natives, Kevin was raised Catholic in West Jordan, while Amanda grew up in Sandy with little religious formation. After meeting at the University of Utah, they married in 2007 and began building a faith-filled family.

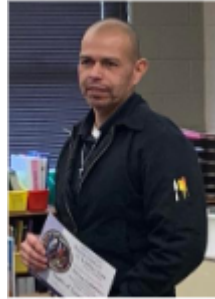
Prior to the birth of their first daughter, Karlie, Amanda entered RCIA and fully embraced the Catholic faith, desiring to raise their children with a strong spiritual foundation. Together with their daughters, Karlie and Kendall, and Kevin's son Antonio, the family became deeply involved at Blessed Sacrament Parish and School, where their faith life flourished.

Kevin and Amanda gave generously of their time and talents. Kevin served on the Blessed Sacrament School Board and the Diocese School Board, while Amanda held multiple leadership roles in the Home and School Association, including President, and played a key role in major fundraising efforts such as Springfest.

Kevin has been an active Knight of Columbus, faithfully serving as Financial Secretary since 2020. In this role, he has modernized council operations, improved membership and activity tracking, and organized highly successful parish fundraisers. A Third Degree Knight, he also supports exemplification ceremonies and council leadership. Today, their daughters attend Juan Diego Catholic High School and live their faith as outstanding students. Their son is also doing very well and currently works for Capital One Bank as a team lead in the Customer Service department.

Kevin and Amanda's devotion to family, parish, and the principles of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity make them truly deserving of the Utah Knights of Columbus Family of the Year.

Knight of the Year



The 2026 Knight of the Year is Brother Tim Lozano from Bishop Hunt Council 5214 in Kearns.

Tim Lozano is a devoted Catholic husband, father, grandfather, and faithful servant of St. Francis Xavier Parish in Kearns, Utah. Married to his wife Lori for 40 years, Tim is the proud father of four children and grandfather of seven. A Knight of Columbus for nine years and a Fourth Degree Knight, Tim has served Bishop Hunt Council 5214 with humility and dedication in many leadership roles, including Lecturer, Life Director, Program Director, Deputy Grand Knight, and Grand Knight, helping lead the council to Star Council status.

Tim is known for his quiet leadership and constant presence wherever service is needed. He faithfully supports parish life through ushering, collections, Eucharistic ministry, Confirmation and OCIA instruction, school outreach, pro-life activities, and leading Rosaries and Holy Hours. At the state level, he serves as Utah Community Director. Never seeking recognition, Tim simply answers God's call to serve, inspire, and lead others in faith. For his unwavering commitment to Charity, Unity, and Fraternity, Tim Lozano is truly deserving of recognition as the Utah Knights of Columbus Knight of the Year.

State Organizational Meeting

The Organizational Meeting for the 2026 – 2027 Fraternal year will be held June 19th and 20th.

More details to come on time and location.



The Catholic Faith in May: The Month of Mary

In the Catholic liturgical calendar, May is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God, as a special month of devotion and spiritual renewal Catholic Culture. This tradition, rooted in the late Middle Ages, transforms ancient spring festivals into a pure Marian celebration, encouraging Catholics to honor Mary through prayer, liturgy, and acts of charity.

Historical and Spiritual Roots

The association of May with Mary dates back to ancient pagan customs honoring goddesses of fertility and spring. The Church Christianized these traditions, especially in the 13th–18th centuries, through practices like the Flowers of May (offering flowers to Mary) and daily Rosary recitation catholicus.eu. Pope Paul VI, in his 1965 encyclical *Mense Maio*, emphasized that May's natural renewal mirrors the grace and hope Mary brings to the faithful.

Theological Significance

Mary holds a unique place in Catholic belief:

Mother of God (Theotokos) – affirmed by the Council of Ephesus (431).

New Eve – said “yes” to God’s plan, reversing the disobedience of Eve.

Co-Redemptrix and Mediatrix – cooperating with Christ in salvation.

Queen of Heaven – described in Revelation 12:1.

Devotion to Mary is not optional; it is part of the Church’s spiritual life, as St. Louis de Montfort taught: “To Jesus through Mary”.

Devotions and Practices in May Catholics in May may engage in:

Prayer of the Month: An Act of Consecration to the Blessed Virgin Mary.
Rosary: Reciting the Joyful, Sorrowful, Glorious, and Luminous Mysteries.
Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Regina Coeli.
Brown Scapular devotion and Marian hymns like the *Akathistos*.
Flower crowns and processions honoring Mary.

Silver Rose

In 1960, the Columbian Squires, a youth organization of the Knights of Columbus, came up with the idea of running a rose to the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Monterrey, Mexico, to honor Our Lady. The rose was chosen to commemorate Saint Juan Diego and the miracle of the roses. Today, eight roses travel along different North American routes that include Canada, the United States and Mexico. Every stop the Silver Rose makes throughout the pilgrimage is a rosary-centered occasion to pray for respect for life, the spiritual renewal of each nation, and the advancement of the message of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Your participation in the Silver Rose program, especially your prayers and pledge for life, are a crucial part of our mission to defend and support life in every stage and condition.

A change in schedule for the Silver Rose brings it to Utah June 28 through July 25 in 2026. We receive the Silver Rose through Route 1 from Wyoming. Unlike previous years, this year the Silver Rose will pass from Utah to Arizona.

The Silver Rose Prayer Service is a powerful and moving one. Share the message of Our Lady of Guadalupe and promote respect for life by participating in this meaningful pilgrimage through a series of prayer services promoting the dignity of all human life and honoring Our Lady. If your Council has not participated in this program before I highly encourage you to do so. As a reminder, the Silver Rose adorations program is an effortless way for your council to excel in the Life programs.

Please contact me to schedule the event at your parish.

Michael Leith
mjlfait@protonmail.com
801-834-0969



In Memoriam

My Brother Utah Knights, it is with sincere regret that I must report the deaths of four of our Brother Knights since the publication of our April 2026 newsletter:

Lname	Fname	Council	DOD	Member	Service Info
Cordial	Craig M.	12181	6/17/2025	4392579	SK2577, 15Yrs,
Hollywood	Alfred E.	16127	4/18/2026	4832784	SK1429, 11Yrs,
Quinn	Kevin J.	14239	3/17/2026	3757344	SK2577, HonLife, 24yr
Shaw	William P.	14399	4/21/2026	2470228	3deg, HonLife, 30yr

“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.

Respectfully Submitted
 William “Bill” Kelly
 Utah State Secretary, IPSD