

*Advent 2022*

# *Hope!*

*Tennessee State Council Magazine*





# Knights of Columbus®

## Tennessee State Council

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2022- 2023 State Officers & Directors

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## State Deputy's Message



*“Merry  
Christmas and  
Vivat Jesus”*

### What's on your Christmas this year?

No matter your age, I am sure you can still recall the anticipation of Christmas from when you were young. The wait for some was almost too much to bear and seemed to get longer and longer with each year that went by. I have had many years go by! We hoped for that special gift we desperately desired and dreamed of enjoying once the wrappings were ripped away to unveil the great treasure. As we grew older, we watched with that same anticipation, in our children and grandchildren, their eyes grow wide at the first glance of a decorated Christmas tree with presents neatly stacked beneath its branches. This hopeful feeling of Christmas is still very much alive in me today, but just not in the same way as in years past.

My Christmas list this year includes something you can't buy on-line or in a store. It is a list of the three men that I am praying for today. I am praying that with the help of the of the Holy Spirit, he will help me bring these men closer to Christ, and to spread God's loving grace. One of these men is a brother Knight in my Council who never attends our meetings, nor does he participate in our activities and events. The second man on my list is a parish member who has not yet become a brother Knight, whom I think would be an incredible addition to our Order.

Finally, the third man is a family member who does not know Christ. I have this sorrow in my heart and in my family.

Of all my Christmas lists over the years, the ones I write today are my favorite as I have grown past the desire for toys or comfort and instead truly hope for the peace for all that only comes with a loving relationship with our Lord and Savior Jesus. As you prepare your Christmas lists this year, I urge you to add the names of three men you know who would benefit from our Order's charity, unity, fraternity, and the joy that can only be found in the loving embrace of God our Father. Who knows, after many hopeful prayers, you might just come to see these “three wise men” join us as Sons of McGivney and Men of the Cross.

Brothers, having you as my brothers is one of the great joys I have in my life. I have my wife, children, and grandchildren, I have my family, I have my faith, I have my Church, and I have the Knights of Columbus. I am on a journey to get to heaven. Ask that good Catholic man to join us on our journey.

Let's all remember to keep Christ in Christmas and know that I love you; God loves you, and have a very Merry Christmas!

*Fred Laufenberg*

*Tennessee Knights of Columbus State Deputy*





## An Advent of Faith, Hope and Charity 2022



### State Chaplain Reflections

On Sunday November 27th, the Church begins the sacred season of Advent for year A of the church's calendar. Advent is not the same as Christmas. Advent is a time to praise God for his great gift of his Son, Jesus Christ into the world. It's time to think about how ready we're to receive Jesus, born of the Virgin Mary, whenever he comes to us, in those who are in need; in the Eucharist at Mass; and at the end of time when Jesus comes up in glory. Advent is a time to prepare our hearts and minds to celebrate the birthday of the Messiah.

For many Christians unfamiliar with the church's liturgical calendar year, there may be some confusion surrounding the meaning of the Advent season. Some people may know that the Advent season focuses on expectation and think that it serves as anticipation of Christ's birth in the season leading up to Christmas.

But the word "Advent" is basically derived from the Latin roots, "adventus" meaning "coming" and "adventum" meaning "to arrive" which is a translation of the Greek word, Parousia, the second coming of Jesus as a judge of the living and the dead. During this season of preparation, Christians would spend 40 days in penance, as most Catholics would have the "Advent Penance Services" in their various churches. During this time, the faithful are encouraged to be more fervent in prayer and meditation.

Advent is the celebration of our faith that is given to us gratuitously and unconditionally by God. It's this amazing faith that the Tennessee State Council of the Knights of Columbus embraced firmly and devotedly by becoming Catholic gentile men of the Eucharist, the Cross, and the Rosary. The Knights of Columbus have imbued themselves in the faith of our Founder, Blessed Michael McGivney. It's the faith that propelled him to established the awesome Fraternal Organization called the Knights of Columbus with over 2 million members around the globe. The Knights of Columbus have embraced this faith that comes from hearing, and hearing from the word of God. Because, faith which is the realization of what is hoped for and evidence of things not seen (Heb 11:1) has made the Tennessee Council of the Knights of Columbus men of faith, hope and charity in their endeavors.

By the 6th century, however, Roman Christians had tied Advent to the coming of Christ. But the meaning of the word, "coming" they had in mind was not Christ's first coming in the Manger in Bethlehem, but his second coming in the clouds, the Parousia, as the judge of the world.

Today, the season of Advent lasts for four Sundays leading up to Christmas. Advent begins on Sunday that falls between November 27th and December 3rd each year.

## ... Chaplain's Reflections (continued).



We remember the popular hymn that ushers in the Advent season, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" perfectly represent the church's cry for Christ coming into our lives and souls. "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel; And ransom captive Israel; That mourns in lonely exile here; Until the Son of God appears; Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, shall come to thee, O Israel".

As Knights of Columbus, it's very pertinent that we reflect seriously on the spiritual meaning of this song, "O Come, O come, Emmanuel" and put it into practice. We must also reflect as Knights of Columbus on the carnage of violence, evil of hate that is going on in the world that God created and found all to be good.

As spiritual sons of our Founder, Blessed Michael McGivney, we're called to be beacons of faith, hope and love among our fellow Knights, and not to be on the periphery as our society has been badly polarized, tribalized, and fragmented.

Advent calls for a renewed efforts as Knights to re-doubled our move to embrace the four promises lay down by our State Deputy, Fred Laufenberg. The four promises if jealously kept and practiced will project our TN State Council to a higher degree of excellence for our Order.

Advent is the season we make amend in our lives and fraternized with one another in preparation for the celebration of the birth of Christ in Christmas.

As the season that ushers in Christmas, as Knights of Columbus, we should pull up our sleeves and put into practice our Order's principles of Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism.

To balance the two elements of remembrance and anticipation during this season of expectation, we see that the 1st two Sundays in Advent (through Dec 16th) look forward to Christ's 2nd coming in glory, and the last two Sundays, (Dec 17th-24th) look backward to remember Christ's 1st coming as child in Bethlehem.

Let us approach this sacred season of Advent with every hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, Emmanuel, God is with us. Hope as we know is the feeling of expectation and desire for a certain thing to happen which is the coming of our Lord Jesus in glory.

According to St. Paul, our hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given to us. We were still helpless, when at his appointed moment, Christ died for sinful men. (Rms 5:5-11).

May I conclude my Advent reflections with this prayer, "O Lord, the Advent candles, with their familiar, glowing light, help us to turn to you. May we stay alert in these weeks, anticipating the joyful celebration of your Son's arrival into the world, into our hearts and minds. As the Advent lights keep darkness at bay, may they also keep us from wandering from your ways. Help us to stay ever watchful, like the gatekeeper. Help us, we pray, to hold your mercy deep within our heart, carrying it with us as we as Knights of Columbus prepare for the coming of our infant Savior-Amen.

*Rev. Dr. Bart N. Okere*  
*Tennessee Knights of Columbus State Chaplain*



## We are Knights to our COR!

By Jimmy Dee

*Director of Evangelization and Faith Formation  
Tennessee Knights of Columbus*

In late October of this year, Supreme announced an exciting new initiative to help us reshape how we evangelize others and live out our vocational discipleship. It is a new model for inviting and engaging men in the faith known as the “**Cor**” faith initiative. **Cor** focuses on gathering groups of men from all walks of life to share in three elements of a faith journey, Prayer, Formation and Fraternity.

The goals of each **Cor** Meeting is (are) to provide the opportunity for Catholic men:

- to encounter Christ
- to strengthen their bonds of brotherhood
- to share their faith, as brothers, and bring souls to Jesus Christ.

The **Cor** Meeting is intended to help all Knights maintain the purpose of their Knighthood and foundation of their Catholic faith at the forefront of their mind. Every program and event that the Council offers will benefit from the **Cor** Meeting as Knights are emboldened and enlivened through the prayer, formation, and fraternity of the meeting to more intentionally engage in the function and goals of Council programs and events. It helps turn service work into mission work, while still achieving the same corporal end, but with a focus on bringing souls to Christ.

We strongly encourage every Council to hold a **Cor** meeting at least monthly in addition to the monthly Council meeting.

Here are some common questions about **Cor** to help give you a framework for these gatherings.

- **Who can attend a Cor Meeting?** The Cor Meeting is for any man in the parish.
- **How often should we meet?** COR Meetings should be held at least monthly, but they can be held more. Adoption of the Cor Meeting is optional for every council.
- **How long should a Cor Meeting be?** Each Cor Meeting should last ideally 60 - 90 minutes.
- **What time of day should a Cor Meeting be held?** Cor Meetings can be held at whatever time of day best serves the men of the parish.
- **Is this a Supreme initiative?** Yes, and each jurisdiction is encouraged to promote it with their Councils.
- **What if my parish already has a men's group?** Great! The Cor Meeting should not cause competition or conflict. Consider using Cor Meeting resources to strengthen and grow the existing group.
- **Should my pastor/chaplain be involved?** Any formation provided at the parish needs the pastors approval. The pastor/chaplain should be involved in planning and invited to each meeting.

• **What do you do?** Each Cor Meeting consists of the following key elements: **prayer, formation, and fraternity.** Cor Meetings should be simple. (*The word 'cor' is Latin for heart and the root of the word courage.*) **Prayer, formation, and fraternity** all begin with the heart and direct the heart in relationship to God and each other in true charity.

**Prayer:** When we pray we “lift of our minds and hearts to God.” Through prayer we strengthen our relationship with God as disciples (followers) of Jesus Christ and grow in our knowledge of Him. Shared time in prayer will help men focus their minds and hearts on God, strengthen the bonds of brotherhood, and keep God at the center of all they are and do. (Examples: Rosary, Lectio Divina, Holy Hour, Chaplet of Divine Mercy)

**Formation:** The aim of Catholic formation is to be like Christ, taking on his character and virtue, life of pray-er, and his mission. The Cor Meeting brings men together to sharpen each other in friendship and fraternity. This formation should include time hearing, studying, and applying the truths of the Catholic faith to daily life. (Examples: Faith inspired talks by clergy or others, reading a spiritual reflection, Into the Breach Video Series, Supreme Chaplain’s Monthly Challenge, Bible Study, small group discussion)

**Fraternity:** The Cor Meeting brings men together as a band of brothers to strengthen each other in friendship and fraternity. The aim of fraternal time should be to create an enjoyable environment that strengthens true friendships. (Examples: Social events, BBQ, bonfire, intentional conversation, and shared meals i.e. donuts and coffee or pizza and beverages.)

While all three of the key elements must be present in each **Cor** meeting, the ratio may change depending on the needs of your men. Each meeting welcomes newcomers, begins in prayer, centers on the main content of the key elements, encourages attendance and participation in council meetings and programs, shares the next **Cor** Meeting time, and closes in prayer.

• **Will this replace the Council Meeting?** No. The Council Meeting has it’s own clear function and purpose, as does the Cor Meeting. Both exist to support the life and function of the council.

• **How does this impact the other Council meetings?**

After adopting the Cor Meeting, the council will most likely have three monthly meetings: Officers Planning Meeting, Council Meeting, and Cor Meeting. Attendance to these meetings may vary over time. It is important to communicate the purpose, function, and value of these meetings and when they are necessary for members to attend. Additionally, the Cor Meeting should inspire men to more actively participate in the leadership and organization of the council.

• **Can the Cor Meeting be a part of the Council Meeting?** We highly encourage that the Cor Meeting have a time of it’s own so proper attention can be given to all respective meetings. Separately structured time allows for a full and focused schedule for each. A report should be offered during the Council Meeting by the Council’s Director of EFF to ensure a clear connection between both meetings.

• **Is the Cor Meeting a Faith in Action program?** No, the Cor Meeting is not a program. However, the structure of the Cor Meeting allows for the incorporation of various Faith in Action programs, such as Holy Hour, Rosary, Into the Breach, etc.

• **Should we meet more than monthly?** Quite possibly. Formation and fraternity done well and that builds a strong and integrated brotherhood marked by trust and growth in virtue, requires increased frequency and intentionality. Meeting once a month is good, but may not be frequent enough to have the full desired impact. The frequency of the Cor Meeting should be primarily determined by the availability of the men of the council and parish who have committed to attend with consideration to council leadership and the pastor.

**Ready to learn more about Cor?**

**Important Cor meeting materials will be available at the mid-year meeting in Nashville Jan, 7, 2023.**





## Walking with Christ is the journey of every Knight.



*By Michael McCusker  
Knights of Columbus Supreme Director/IPSD*

“Were not our hearts burning within us while He talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?” These words from Luke 24:32, which so poignantly capture the fervor of the disciples on the road to Emmaus as they walked with their Lord, also describes how I often feel after I spend time with my Brother Knights and their families.

We all walk the road to Emmaus every day. Oftentimes, we are fortunate to walk that road with our Brother Knights, but in truth, we never walk that road alone, even when it seems like a lonely journey. For Christ is always walking along with us, hungering as much for us to be present with Him, as He talks and opens the Scriptures to us.

The beauty of our journey in Tennessee is that for over half a decade now, we as Knights have recognized that we are traveling with Christ, not just on the easy journey toward Emmaus but also, at times, on the road to Calvary, where we as Men of the Cross are committed to following Christ wherever He chooses to lead us.

It has been our willingness to accept our crosses that has led to our success in Tennessee, and we have become an example to other jurisdictions.

In truth, this is nothing new to the Order. At the 2022 State Deputy Midyear Meeting this weekend in Orlando, both Supreme Knight Kelly and Brother Damien O’Connor (Supreme Vice President of Evangelization and Faith Formation) reminded us that the Christocentric approach is mandated in Section 2 of the Charter, Constitution and Laws of the Order where we are called as Knights to “form our members in the faith”. As Damien noted, it is important to remember when we read those words that there is a simple, obvious truth. We do not become Knights because we are already perfectly formed in the faith, but it is through God’s grace bestowed on us as members that we will be formed in the faith through our practice of charity, unity, and fraternity.

*“We all walk the road to Emmaus  
every day”*



As an Order, we were blessed to have Supreme Knight Carl Anderson who admirably lead us into the 21st Century by reminding us of our past accomplishments while opening to us our full potential in these challenging times, and now, under his successor, Patrick Kelly, we are continuing to realize that potential by focusing on a Christocentric approach to membership in our Order.





## Supreme Director's message(Continued).

God works in mysterious ways. Six years ago, when Worthy PSD Tracy Staller and our Director of Evangelization and Faith Formation, Jimmy Dee, began to shift our focus toward Christ as the source of our calling as Knights, Damien O'Connor and Patrick Kelly were having the same conversation in Connecticut. Simply put, there are no coincidences in God's plans for our lives.

From our example in Tennessee and Supreme's focus on bringing evangelization to the core of what we do as Knights, we now have the development of the Cor Meeting Format which is currently being fielded in twenty-one volunteer jurisdictions.

The name comes from St. John Henry Newman's Coat of Arms, which read "Cor ad cor loquitur," which means "heart speaks to heart." (It should also be noted that Supreme originally called for only five volunteer jurisdictions and instead got twenty-one. Considering that Tennessee is called the Volunteer State due to an overwhelming response for volunteers during the War of 1812, one can argue that Tennessee's volunteer spirit is now inspiring many Knights well beyond our borders!)

Throughout my time in the Knights, I have often been inspired by one Knight's heart speaking to another Brother's heart. Lately, the most powerful example I have seen of this came last Lent, when Brother Knights from Council 9317 (Cordova) gathered to put on their annual fish fry at St. Francis of Assisi. The council has been holding these fish fries for nearly forty years. Fish fries along with pancake breakfasts and other events are often what people think of when they hear "Knights of Columbus," and where these are important to the life of a parish, the gathering is also important to the life of Catholic men.

One Friday night last spring, as the Brothers cleaned up after the fish fry, near the end of the evening, they grabbed beverages and a few chairs and sat in a circle in the kitchen where they finally had a chance to relax after a long night. At first, it was simple small talk, friends catching up. As time went by, the conversation quite naturally turned toward the coming Easter and faith. As the discussion continued, more Brothers joined and the circle of chairs grew. A couple of hours later and they still sat there, deeply immersed in a discussion of faith that was not only marked by openness but vulnerability too, some men sharing things they had long hidden in those deep, dark ugly corners of our hearts where we often hide our shame, convincing ourselves that we do not measure up. As the conversation continued, each man recognized that hearts were speaking to hearts, and no one wanted to be anywhere else.

This is what Cor Meetings are about and it shows the importance of where Supreme wants the Order to go as we quickly approach the 150th birthday of the Knights of Columbus. It is the first fruits of our efforts in Tennessee, and we are so very blessed to have a Supreme Knight who sees the worth of evangelization in the growth and sustainability of the Order.

Hearts speak to hearts, and when that happens are our hearts not on fire, just as long ago on the road to Emmaus, when Christ opened the scriptures to those first disciples? We are his disciples today. He still walks with us, and oh, how are hearts burn with a fire that will truly light the world.

*Vivat Jesus and Merry Christmas!*





## Strengthening Membership- Fulfilling our First Promise!

What does membership mean to each of you? What does membership mean to the Knights of Columbus fraternal organization? Our theme this year is to live and act on our four core promises. In order to make this year a success to all of us, we begin with an invitation to our fellow Catholic men to join the Knights of Columbus!

By extending this invitation, we are not only evangelizing, but we are also fulfilling the first of our four promises. We are Evangelizing as Jesus tells us to do. We are bringing them Good News, the good news of the Knights of Columbus! Membership is an individual invitation from a Knight of Columbus to a fellow Catholic man. Inviting that man is the first step in sticking to the four promises we have adopted as a State...

1. We promise to help all Catholic men grow closer in their relationship with Jesus Christ.
2. We promise to help provide opportunities for all Catholic men to serve Christ in his Church.
3. We promise to help provide opportunities for all Catholic men to serve those most in need in their communities in the name of Christ.
4. We promise to help prevent unnecessary financial hardship from falling upon a Catholic family due to the loss of a primary breadwinner or an underfunded retirement plan.

Once our fellow Catholic men are aware of who we are and what we do, it would be difficult for them to not accept your invitation to join the largest fraternity of Catholic men in the world. Yes, we are an international organization including more than 2 million men around the world. And what do we do as an international organization? As a reminder, here is just a bit of what you were an integral part of...

- 2 million + members; including adding more than 2,000 college Knights in 2020
- More than 16,000 Councils; including more than 300 College Councils
- Charity: \$185 mil; 75.6 mil volunteer hours (annually)
- Disaster Relief: \$4.2 mil
- Ukraine Solidarity Fund donated more than \$20 mil to date
- Culture of Life: placed more than 1500 ultrasound machines to date
- Charity in the Middle East: committed more than \$20 mil in aid to Christians since 2014
- Military and Veterans: sponsored more than 200 pilgrims to Lourdes for the 60th International Military Pilgrimage
- Coats for Kids: More than 800,000 new coats to children have been distributed to date
- Food for Families Program: more than 4 million pounds of food and \$2.7 mil to local food partners
- Global Wheelchair Mission: more than 100,000 wheelchairs
- Refund Support Vocations Program: More than \$3.8 million to 6,348 seminarians and postulants
- Special Olympics: \$600 mil and countless man hours
- Life Insurance: \$8.8 billion sold last year; currently more than \$111 bil insurance in force
- Annuities now available
- Goal of \$5mil for Aid and Support After Pregnancy (ASAP)

The invitation is individual, it is personal, it is one-on-one, it is evangelizing one Catholic man at a time. But the Council needs to be visible to the parish. The Council must be there to support our pastor and our community. But how does a Council get the visibility we need to make the invitation all that easier to deliver and be received?

## Membership (Continued).

This becomes the role and responsibility of the Council as a whole. The steps a Council should put in place are relatively simple, yet tried and true; proven to work. Each Council should implement the following four courses of action:

1. Members need to be visible whenever they are in church or on church grounds. Wear your Knights of Columbus shirts and your badges; be proud of who you are and who you represent.
2. Make use of your church bulletin on a weekly basis. All announcements should be informational (specifically advertising and upcoming event), inspirational (a little bit about the Knights, who we are and what we do) and/or invitational (come join us). A complete list of bulletin announcements has been compiled and available for your use.
3. Use of membership invitational cards. You can get these cards from Supreme (10536 9-20). Use a QR code that you must put on yourself and have each member of the Council use these to invite/evangelize fellow Catholics.
4. Online Membership
  - a. [www.kof.org/join](http://www.kof.org/join)
  - b. Only one page to fill out
  - c. Free by using the code: blessedmcgivney
  - d. Takes less than 5 minutes to sign up

Your State Membership Committee is here to help, you're not in this alone. The team is anxious to help in any way they can so please reach out!

*Dan Brodbeck*  
*Tennessee State Membership Director*

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**We're here to help!**





## Keeping Christ in Christmas.

“It’s a most wonderful time of the year!” For once the secular world got it right. For this simple Christmas song inadvertently reminds us of God’s greatest gift---our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!!

Let us make sure that among the Santas, candy canes, stockings, etc. that we remind our family and friends that the gift of Jesus dwarfs the secular world’s seasonal trappings.

The word “Advent” comes from the Latin “adventus” which means a coming, approach, or arrival.

Allow me to make a few suggestions to enhance our advent season.

- Have the entire family make or purchase an advent wreath. Instruct the children about the wreath and candles and what they represent.
- Set up a nativity scene. When you set it up the Friday or Saturday after Thanksgiving. Do not put the baby Jesus until Christmas eve or morning.
- Place a Jesse tree in the family room. Have the ornaments based on symbols of the Old Testament events preparing for the coming of Christ.
- Keep an advent calendar. The U.S. Council of Bishops provides an Advent calendar on their website with activity suggestions for each day.
- Look ahead to the feasts and celebrations of advent. A few that stand out to me. December 6, The feast of St. Nicholas. The “original Santa Claus”. This is a terrific opportunity to tell your children the true story of St. Nicholas. December 8, Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. Explain the concept to your children. December 12, the feast of our Lady of Guadalupe. Have a family discussion about Mary’s appearance to Juan Diego. December 16, Begin praying a Christmas novena.

Lastly, let us discuss with our family how Jesus comes into our world today. Your children may surprise you that they have seen Jesus in small things that adults overlook.

So every time you hear Andy Williams sing “It’s a most wonderful time of the year” remember the REAL reason it’s wonderful: The birth of Jesus.

*Vivat Jesus!*

*John Hitt*

*Tennessee State Faith Director*





## Safe environment & liability coverage is important for all!



The Knights of Columbus is strongly committed to protecting children and other vulnerable persons in our state, communities, parishes, and schools. We have a perennial goal of 100% compliance for the State of Tennessee. As of November 3, we have numerous councils that are either non-compliant in various roles within our councils, or the councils have vacant positions. To be Safe Environment compliant the following roles must be filled and have completed the training: Grand Knight, Program Director, Community Director, and Family Director. Additionally, the Community Director and Family Director need to authorize Praesidium to conduct and pass a criminal background check.

Grand Knights are encouraged to resubmit the Form 365 to fill the non-compliant or vacant positions, and then have the appointed members complete the training and background checks, if necessary. The Forms 185 and 365, trigger the invitation process for the required training. Once an invitation is received, the member has thirty days to complete the training and authorize the background check.

One very important requirement from Praesidium is that the members appointed to receive the training must have a valid email address and that it cannot be a generic email address, i.e. gkccouncil###@aol.com or family.council###@yahoo.com, etc.

In solidarity with the USCCB, the State Council also encourages our members to also comply with their respective Diocesan Safe Environment Training (often called VIRTUS Training). Since this is a diocesan program, we do not have access to that data to report our compliance in that area.

Subordinate councils are highly encouraged to carry liability insurance for their activities and their officers. While the State Council does not provide liability insurance for subordinate councils, we have relationship with Lockton Affinity to provide insurance for the State Council and in addition, Lockton Affinity Insurance is positioned to quote any local council in our state and provide quality coverage when paid by each respective council.

Lastly, all officers with access to Officers Online have the Officers Desk Reference as a source of answers to many of the questions that are asked throughout the course of the fraternal year. While I do not suggest studying the Desk Reference, I do encourage all that have access to familiarize themselves with this valuable source of information. Over the past year and a half I have received several questions or was advised of a situation that had the answer or a procedure to resolve a situation in the Officer Desk Reference.

*By David Zwissler  
Tennessee State Advocate*



## Getting into the “spirit” of the season.

When I think of Advent, I remember seeing an evergreen tree in a bucket on the porch. This was the precursor that Christmas was coming. We were admonished that only well-behaved children would be rewarded and if we were bad we would get a lump of coal for our Christmas gift. To be good we had to obey our parents, says our prayers, go to Mass and do our chores. On Christmas Eve the tree was set up and decorated, lights were placed in the windows and a snack was left for Santa Claus. It was difficult to sleep with the anticipation of what tomorrow would bring. The tree was up for the celebrations and didn't come down until after the Epiphany. Today my neighbors have Christmas tree and decorations with gifts underneath up by Thanksgiving Weekend and down by the day after Christmas

Advent is derived from the Latin words' “ad” meaning to, and “venire” meaning to come. The definition for Advent is the penitential period beginning four Sundays prior to Christmas. For 2022 Advent starts the 27th of November, starting of a time to get ready for the joyous, celebration of Jesus Christ's Nativity. This penitential period is a time preparation, and like lent, is intended to use prayer, penance and fasting.

When I look at the calendar, I see two significant days that occur during Advent, the first is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary on December 8th. The other is the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on December 12th.

Now for what we should do for this penitential period in preparations for the Nativity of Christ. We should support Our Lady of Guadalupe services and participate in the procession. The Knights of Columbus has programs good for the Christmas Season with Food for Families, Coats for Kids, Keep Christ in Christmas programs using faith-based Christmas Cards and conduct a Christmas poster contest. Councils should have Spiritual Retreat using such topics as Into the Breach. We need to be engaged in Parish Adoration, Holy Hours and penance services – and if none are scheduled work with the Pastor to schedule. After Christmas we should have a Consecration to the Holy Family program.

*Vivat Jesus!*  
*Bill Markiewicz*  
*Tennessee State Secretary*



“Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
\* and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” Luke 2:14



## Life insurance is the cornerstone of a family's financial security.



*Blessed Michael McGivney* certainly knew how important life insurance was to a family. But many members don't understand how involved Fr. McGivney was in developing the Order's insurance program. According to Christopher Kauffman, the author of the centennial history of the Order, *Faith and Fraternalism, The History of the Knights of Columbus 1882-1982*, one of Fr. McGivney's two main reasons for founding the Order was "the need to protect families during sickness and death." (pg. 17) Kauffman goes on to say that Fr. McGivney "spent his energy in promoting the insurance feature." (pg. 35) Originally, when the Order was founded, there was no such thing as an "associate member." Everyone was insured; that was one of those two primary reasons for joining

While the Order is now well known for its charitable works and strong advocacy for the most vulnerable, strengthening men in their faith and protecting them and their families with life insurance were twin catalysts in forming the Order. While young Catholic men still seek to strengthen their faith, we know families still need protection from untimely death. This mission remains just as important today.

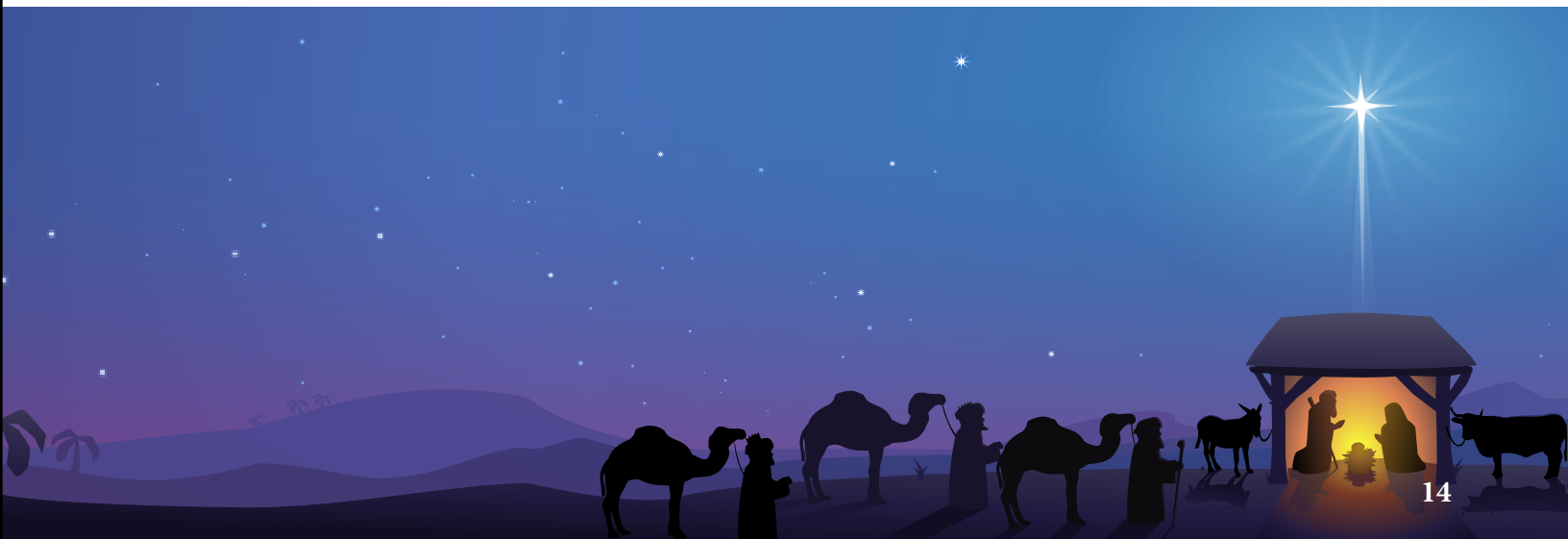
In an attempt to make every member and every eligible Catholic man aware of how important life insurance is, the Order has made a substantial investment. The Order has provided your agent with a high-tech, state of the art financial needs analysis platform that can help us determine where you stand today. It can help us formulate a strategy for you and your family and offer meaningful insurance and financial solutions for your other goals as well...a strategy specific to your family and your situation.

The analysis can be done in the comfort of your home or virtually. What can life insurance provide? Peace of mind and security.

*Vivat Jesus!*

*Daniel E. Schachle FICF, PGK*

*General Agent*





## 2023 State convention updates.

Every council needs to be represented at the State Convention to have a say in the future of the Tennessee State Council and for the fraternity of our order. Our goal is to achieve that by offering a “hybrid” convention with both in-person and virtual attendance options. As we discussed during the three Kickoff Meetings, we will have a hybrid convention in April 2023.

Since we will be doing a hybrid convention, and since there are additional costs associated with the virtual side of the convention, each council will be billed \$50 (\$25 per delegate). This charge will appear on their per capita statements for the upcoming year. If the elected delegate(s) wish to attend in person, the virtual fee will be deducted from the in-person registration fees.

Regardless of whether your council will be attending in person or virtually, there are several things that need to be completed:

1. Registration Form – either electronically (Online registration is available on the State website) or by downloading the form from the website and mailing it according to the instructions on the form.
2. Every council should elect your delegates before December/January.
3. Delegate Certification Form – Due in March 2023 (available on the state council website)
4. Necrology Form - available on the website. PLEASE complete this form for any fallen brothers or their wives that have passed since our last convention.
5. Hotel reservations at the Cool Springs Marriott in Franklin, if attending in person. The reservation can be changed or canceled 48 hours before arrival.

Our main financial goals for the live convention are to cover the cost of the meals and to fulfill our “room nights” requirement.

## SAVE THE DATE

APRIL 2023

28-29

### Tennessee State Convention

Cool Springs Marriott  
Franklin Tennessee.

Registration available on-line  
at: [www.kofc-tn.org](http://www.kofc-tn.org)

We are basically renting the meeting and storage space by fulfilling our food purchase requirement and number of rooms and nights we stay at the hotel. (Reaching our food requirements and room nights = FREE meeting room space.) All meals (banquet, lunch, Ladies Lunch, etc.) and food costs (coffee and drinks) go toward our minimum food requirement. With inflation at 40-year highs, we are going to try to have quality meals, but we will keep the budget and your expense in mind. Since our room rate was contracted 5 years ago, the rate will be \$167 per night. Delegates will receive per diem of 70% of the contracted room rate per eligible night and mileage (\$0.31/mile) one way to the convention.

The cost this year for in-person attendance will be \$200 for the men, and \$150 for the ladies. If registrations are received, or postmarked by February 18, there will be a \$50 discount on each registration. So, for the elected delegates that attend in-person, register, and pay before February 18, the cost will be \$125 after the virtual fee is deducted and the discount is applied. Register early and save! It helps with event planning and preparations that are very important to the success of our event.

Reminders will be sent out periodically through Flocknote, emails, and through your District Deputies to ensure that all councils are completing the tasks listed above in a timely fashion.

*David Zwissler*

*Tennessee State Advocate/State Convention Co-chair.*





## Congratulations to Council 14931! Felicidades Hermanos!



District Deputy Tex Shellhart presented Supreme Council awards to Hispanic Council 14931, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Nashville, TN for recruiting new members and meeting insurance goals for fraternal year 2021-2022. The council is headed by Grand Knight Miguel Marín. Miguel addressed the group and stated this award was a council effort and he appreciates the men and all their hard work. Council 14931 is an all-Hispanic council that serves a large community in Nashville, TN.

El Diputado de Distrito Tex Shellhart entregó un premio al Consejo Hispano 14931, Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, Nashville, TN por reclutar nuevos miembros y alcanzar las metas de seguro para el año fraternal 2021-2022. El consejo está presidido por el Gran Caballero Miguel Marín. Miguel se dirigió al grupo y dijo que este premio fue un esfuerzo del consejo y que aprecia a los hombres y todo su arduo trabajo. El Consejo 14931 es un consejo totalmente hispano que sirve a una gran comunidad en Nashville, TN.

### **Cuatro promesas de afiliación para todos los Caballeros de Colón de Tennessee**

1. Ayudaremos a todos los hombres a acercarse más a Cristo.
2. Brindaremos a los hombres oportunidades para servir a Cristo en su Iglesia.
3. Brindaremos a los hombres oportunidades para servir a los más necesitados en nuestra comunidad en el nombre de Cristo.
4. Haremos todo lo posible para garantizar que ninguna familia católica sufra dificultades financieras debido a la pérdida de un sostén principal o un plan de jubilación con fondos insuficientes.



Please pray for all our Bishops, Priests, Deacons, and Religious!

The Most Reverend  
David Prescott Talley  
Bishop of Memphis



The Most Reverend  
J. Mark Spalding D.D., J.C.L.  
Bishop of Nashville



The Most Reverend  
Richard Frank Stika  
Bishop of Knoxville



*“Let’s be sure to remember our bishops,  
priests, deacons and religious during  
this joyous holiday season.”*

**Merry Christmas from the officers and  
staff of the Tennessee State Council.**

