

CONNECTICUT STATE DEPUTY MONTHLY MESSENGER

Volume 5 Issue 7 JANUARY 2021

Two Month Calendar

Date/Time	Event/Program	Place/Location
Jan. 24, Sun. 2PM	Pro-Life Mass	St. Mary's New Haven (By invitation only)

Future Events to Mark on Your Calendar

Mar. 28, Sun. 4PM	Blessed Fr. McGivney Banquet	Plantsville-Aquaturf Club
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**More Details are available on State Council Website at:
ctstatecouncil.org**

Program Director's Message

The coronavirus pandemic continues to impact participation in our programs and activities for 2020-2021 fraternal year. The Program Team will continue to move forward in the fraternal year offering our programs and adapting in accordance with state and local guidelines.

Blessed Michael McGivney. As we continue to pray for our beloved founder's elevation to sainthood, the **Father Michael McGivney Guild** serves as a source for information about the life, works and spirituality of Father McGivney. The Guild distributes informational materials about him, receives reports of favors granted through his intercession and oversees the distribution of relics. Guild members receive regular updates on the progress of Father McGivney's cause for canonization and are invited to participate in promoting devotion to this Servant of God. It takes but a few minutes to join on-line or through the mail and there is no cost. You can use the form provided in the Columbian magazine or enroll on-line at www.fathermcgivney.org. If you have any questions, contact Paul Sirois at hod1usa@yahoo.com.

Family of the Month. For the month of November, the Supreme Office selected the **Kevin Molly** family submitted by Council 4460, Darien. **Congratulations.** This program costs nothing to participate in and is a wonderful way to recognize a family in your parish. With the many

challenges facing families and our church, this simple recognition can go a long way in building up and supporting our families. Please consider participating in this worthwhile program. If you have any questions, contact Scott Laporte at scottlap@yahoo.com.

Spiritual Reflections. The **Into the Breach Virtual Mini-Retreat** is a short spiritual retreat you can do from the comfort of your home. The series is 12 one hour sessions on the 4th Monday of each month at 8 pm. Preregistration is required as an email invitation is required to attend. The next session is on January 25th and the topic will be Life.

An **Into the Breach Virtual Retreat** will be offered February 6th from 8 – Noon. This event will consist of four of the monthly “virtual mini-retreats”.

A **Consecration to St Joseph** begins Wednesday 2/17 at 7 PM. It is based on Fr Donald Calloway’s book with 33 days of group preparation via virtual meetings. Continuing Wednesdays 2/24, 3/3, 3/10, and 3/17. The Day of Consecration, the Solemnity of St Joseph, 3/19 will be at 7 PM.

An **Into the Breach Day of Reflection** will be offered at St Marks Hall, West Hartford, on March 13th. This is an in-person event offered with limited seating.

Refer to our State website for additional information for all of the above. To pre-register for any or all of these events, contact David Imhof at imhofda@aol.com.

Food for Families. As our state continues to struggle during this pandemic, many remain unemployed. With these added to those in our communities struggling through hardships and unable to provide food for their families, the need for this program continues. The goal of **Food for Families** is to ensure as few as possible go to bed hungry each night. Your Council can help by conducting a food drive to support the local organizations distributing food to those in need in your community, especially during this time of hardships for many through no fault of their own. Let us all help end hunger in our communities and assist those struggling during this pandemic to feed their families.

Marian Icon Program. Our three Marian Icons “*Our Lady, Help of Persecuted Christians*” continue their journey through our state. The new Icon introduced at the Supreme Convention “**Saint Michael, The Archangel**” will not be released to the states until after the 2021 Supreme Convention. We will continue with our present Icons until the new ones are received. Contact PSD Joe Murphy at 860-536-1431 for more details.

Blessed McGivney Prayer Hour. Supreme will release this new program in January. Details will be available from the Supreme website.

Pro Life Mass. This year our Annual Pro-Life Mass will be on **January 24th, 2021** at St Mary Church, New Haven. The Mass will be at 2 pm. Due to Covid restrictions, there will be attendance restrictions and no baby shower, however, donations from Councils and attendees will be accepted.

Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest. Posters are now in the District judging phase to be completed by January 15th. All rules and details are available on our State website. If there are any questions or for more information contact Chris Randall at superchris17@sbcglobal.net.

Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest. Encourage youth in your community to become citizens grounded in their faith through creative writing. Open to all Catholic students (public, private, home, or parochial schools) in grades 8 to 12 during the current school year. Details are available from the Supreme website or contact Jim Ciaglo at jwciaglo@frontier.com. Councils are to submit winning essays **no later than March 15, 2021** to: James W. Ciaglo, Catholic Essay Chairman, 565 Old Hartford Rd. Colchester, CT 06415

Rev. Donald Barry Scholarships. Annually the State Council awards five \$1000.00 scholarships to High School seniors entering a four-year college or university. Details are available from our State website or contact Jim Ciaglo at jwciaglo@frontier.com. Councils are to submit applications **no later than February 15, 2021** to James W. Ciaglo, Catholic Essay Chairman, 565 Old Hartford Rd. Colchester, CT 06415.

Substance Abuse Poster Contest. This program is open to ages 8 through 14. Posters must reflect either the theme of Alcohol Awareness and Abuse or Drug Awareness and Abuse. Each poster should be the original work (including concept, layout, slogan and any visual images) of the person submitting the poster. The details will be available from our State website or contact Stephen Mieczkowski at 203-378-9521.

Annual Father Michael J. McGivney Banquet. This event will take place on **March 28th, 2021** at Aqua Turf in Plantsville. This year's honoree will be **Archbishop Leonard Paul Blair**. Please refer to our State website for all details including reservation form.

Faith in Action 2020-2021 Program Incentive. The Incentive Program for this fraternal year was introduced in July. The details and requirements are available on the State website or from your District Deputy.

Ultrasound Van. Your support is needed to keep it rolling as well as for new ultrasound projects that truly save hundreds of babies. Refer to the State's Life webpage for further details and information on all these key projects.

Columbian Award. The requirements of 16 Program Credits for the Columbian Award are reinstated for the 2020-2021 fraternal year. 4 Credits are required in each of the categories - Faith, Family, Community and Life. There are no Required Programs and additional Featured Programs have been added. Featured Programs when conducted in accordance with the requirements provide for 2 credits. Additional information can be found on the Supreme website.

Communications. Does your Council have an upcoming activity within our Faith In Action Program model? Is your activity a legacy Council event? Do you want help in publicizing? Contact our Public Relation Director, George Ribellino at public.relations@ctstatecouncil.org for assistance.

Programs Attract Members - Members Enhance Programs

For Additional information on these or any other program activities, please check the State Website

www.ctstatecouncil.org/, Supreme website www.kofc.org or contact the Program Director: Ted Pacanowski at 203-376-7050 or program.director@ctstatecouncil.org.

Membership Director's Message

CT WINS A CLOSE CONTEST TO CLOSE OUT THE YEAR!!

Division 3			
Rank	Division	Jurisdiction	New Members 11/1-12/31/2020
1	3	CT	142
2	3	BC	133
3	3	AZ	119
4	3	TN	83
5	3	CO	49
6	3	KY	45
7	3	NM	37
8	3	NC	34
9	3	WA	28
10	3	NB	21
11	3	SK	14
12	3	SC	10

CT closed out the year with a membership recruiting contest win by having the most new members in our jurisdiction from November 1st to December 31st of 2020. This was truly a team win for the State Council Officers, the District Deputies and all the fellow brothers who did their part to advertise and recruit in these difficult times of Covid-19. Going forward we have some more recruiting ideas for councils as we move away from the celebration of the Beatification of Blessed Michael McGivney and the use of the Join for Free code which is no longer active.

Ads on Facebook and Instagram will continue. Continue to sign new members up online just like before, except there is no discount code at this time. Maybe later we will have it again. New members are signing up. CT is now 18th overall in new members and growing. This current ad will be sent out again to all DDs, GKs and FSs with the suggestion to put it in their Parish bulletin.

One new idea that we will be working on is the **Virtual Delta Church Drive**. State Chaplin, Father Jeffrey Romans will be recording his pulpit speech that he uses during his delta church drives and making it available for councils to use. Drive prospects to this Virtual Delta Church Drive by asking Kevin or myself to host via GoToMeeting the drive and getting them there by

sending invitations by post card mailers, web site ads, bulletin ads, word of mouth, phone calls, etc. Reservations will be required, and we are limited up to 150 people per virtual drive or 300 each time.

KEEP MEETING - Meeting inside in person with masks is allowed. Schedule your Exemplifications for your Council and your District. Keep an eye out for future State Council Virtual Exemplifications. Last week we had 5 show up for our first one. We are here to help. Continue to use the generic landing page (<https://info.kofc.org/>) during your membership drive to sign up prospects that would like further info. Also, bookmark the www.kofc.org/joinus on your phone to create a shortcut or as I like to call it, "The App".

State Deputy's Message

As we said goodbye to 2020, I am sure most if not all of us will say good riddance...

The optimist in me wants to remind everyone that 2020 was not all bad. We accomplished a lot and have more to be proud of this Dec. 31 than we had last Dec. 31.

Remember CT was the first jurisdiction in the Order to introduce and perform the new Exemplification of Charity, Unity and Fraternity. What a day it was last Jan 1 at St. Mary's and the rest of the Order followed our lead. It was our State that showed that the new Exemplification was and is special.

CT was the first jurisdiction to hold a "virtual State Convention". Once again, we led the way and the rest of the Order followed.

CT was also ahead of the curve when it came to free on-line membership. CT recognized that recruiting and joining the traditional way would not work in the COVID environment and we approached Supreme with a plan to continue growing the Order.

CT also had a record number of Councils who achieved Star at the end of June. We had 43 Councils reach that goal!!!

CT had a record number of Districts achieve Star as well. There were 7 Districts that reached that goal!!!

CT also hosted the Supreme Convention this year in New Haven, yes it was virtual for everyone else, but it was held in New Haven. The last time it was held in CT was 1982 and it was fitting that the Convention Mass could be held in St. Mary's with Father McGivney the same year he was Beatified.

We have adapted to the COVID environment and Councils are still meeting, because of you the Councils are still doing the work of the Order and people are still receiving the assistance needed from the Knights. Everywhere you look you see Knights doing the work that is needed, you see us at food drives, blood drives, cleaning Churches, putting coats on kids and helping out

wherever needed, not to mention the Councils who have stepped up to donate funds for the Ultrasound machines!!

I believe that when COVID is behind us we and many will look back at what the K of C has done and realize that 2020 were some of our finest hours. I cannot Thank you enough for the work you are doing during these difficult times. It is a privilege and an honor to be part of this great Order with all of you.

I do have to say that the highlight of the year was October 31 and the weekend surrounding it. The Beatification of our Founder was and is a historic moment for the Knights of Columbus, the Church, the Archdiocese of Hartford and we were there to witness it and take part in the celebration.

So, yes when we look back at 2020 we will see there was bad but look at what we did to overcome, what we did that was never done before and how we demonstrated what it meant to be a Knight.

As we ring in 2021, look at what we did this year and use it as a springboard for us to reach even greater achievements.

There are 6 months left in the Fraternal year and there is plenty to do. As of today, 2/3 of the Councils in CT have yet to add a member. Of those 2/3s, half have on-line prospects waiting to join your Council. These men when recruited actually wrote that they wanted to join X number Council. The GK and FS have access to the prospect tab on Officers Online where the information of these men is listed. Reach out to these men, schedule an exemplification and get these men into your Councils. Your DD or any State Officer is willing to help you get the exemplification set up and done, just ask and we will be there to help you and your Council grow.

Getting these men into the Council is the first step in getting your Council to Star status. Having a Council achieve Star under your leadership would be something to be proud of for years to come, and the members are waiting on-line for you.

As I close, I pray for those that we lost this past year, those that are struggling and have been affected by the pandemic, for a quick end to the pandemic and for the all to have a Happy, Holy and Healthy New Year!

Vivat Jesus

*Gary McKeone
State Deputy
Connecticut State Council
Knights of Columbus
860-989-5252*

State Chaplain's Message

Each week I do a live video on Facebook entitled #beyondthebulletin. It is an effort to get the parishioners involved and excited about things that are happening in the parish or community that may not be in the weekend bulletin. We normally post a question one day and allow the people to respond and then the following day go live with my video. A week ago we asked the parishioners *what's one thing you'll miss about 2020 and one hope you have for 2021?* As you probably guessed there were a lot of hopes for 2021, but only one person shared something they will miss from 2020. Interesting, but not shocking.

Goodbye 2020! This past year has been one like never before. It has been rough. It has tested our resilience. It has stretched us to get creative and use the technology at our fingertips like never before. There are not many, if any, people sad to see the calendar change over to 2021!

CERTAINLY WE ARE ALL LOOKING TO 2021 TO BE A YEAR OF HOPE AND HEALING, but let us also enter into this New Year mindful that a new year can be so much more:

- It can be a time of new enthusiasm.
- It can be a time of new energy.
- It can be a time of new opportunity.
- It can also be a time to grow stronger and closer to God.
- It can be a time to create holy habits.

So, as we embark on this New Year in God's grace, let us pray that we will do so in the understanding that there is nothing that should hinder us from following the Lord completely, strengthening our relationship with Him, and serving Him in our daily lives.

As we begin this New Year, consider adding one of the following to your daily routines:

1. **Read the Bible...** Can you read a chapter a day during your prayer time?
2. **Get to know the Saints...** go to Amazon and purchase a book on the lives of the Saints or start with just one Saint perhaps your patron for Confirmation. Learn about their lives and get to know them as spiritual guides. Ask them to pray for you!
3. **Go to Eucharistic Adoration...** most parishes offer it, call and find out when, and GO!
4. **Commit to daily prayer...** make a commitment to the Lord to spend time each day in prayer no matter what time of day, but make a commitment and keep it.
5. **Celebrate the Sacraments...** make it a point to experience God's mercy more in the Sacrament of Reconciliation! Participate more frequently in the Eucharist!
6. **Do more with the Knights...** we already belong to a fraternity focused on charity and unity so do something with your brother Knights to make a difference in the lives of others!
7. **Start fasting...fasting isn't just for lent,** it is a way for us to be conformed to Christ every day. Perhaps you can start by performing some act of penance every Friday throughout the year! It is only 52! You can do it.

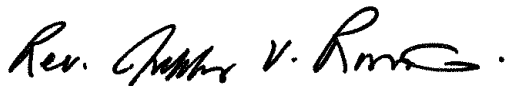
Please continue to join me in prayer! Pray for peace in our nation, in our state, on our streets. Pray for our first responders. Pray for firefighters, police officers, EMTs, doctors, and nurses.

Continue to pray for those infected by the Coronavirus, those who have died from the Coronavirus, those who have lost loved ones from this virus, and those who are struggling to maintain their sanity through it all. Pray for the continued success of the vaccines being developed!

Thank you for your service and witness to the faith in Jesus and to the Catholic Church! The Church needs your witness today more than ever!

Let's continue to do our part to grow the Order!

Vivat Jesus!



The Reverend Jeffrey V. Romans
State Chaplain

State Secretary Message

State Council Per Capita

There are still a few councils that are in arrears on state council per capita. Second notices have been sent out. Although Supreme has waived per capita and other charges, the CT State Council is not in a position to do that. Per capita revenue is needed to cover our program and other expenses throughout the year.

Liability Insurance through Lockton Affinity

All councils and assemblies should have adequate insurance coverage. Councils are NOT covered by their parish's insurance policy. Councils that use home corporations should NOT rely on the home corporation's insurance policy. The policy may not adequately cover council events, and if there is a claim involving the council and home corporation, the insurer may refuse to cover the claim due to the "insured versus insured" exclusion. Also, more and more parishes and dioceses are requiring K of C councils to provide evidence of insurance to use parish facilities. The insurance provided by Lockton Affinity has the broadest coverage, at the lowest premium cost, of any insurance I am aware of.

If your council or assembly needs insurance, contact me and I can provide information on the Lockton program.

If your council has a Lockton insurance policy and needs an insurance certificate to prove insurance to the parish or for an event, contact me and I will send you a short form to fill out. Lockton usually produces the certificate within two business days.

Formal Agreements between councils and parishes

Several councils have been asked by their parish to enter into formal agreements in order to use parish facilities. This will become more common as time goes on. If your council is asked to sign

an agreement like this, please send it to the state deputy and me, so that we can review it and discuss with the Supreme Advocate's office if necessary. These agreements are usually created by the parish's insurer. Sometime these agreements contain terms that do not fit the unique structure and status of a K of C council relative to its parish.

I can be reached at 860-878-0158 or state.secretary@ctstatecouncil.org.

Fraternally,

Matt
Matthew C. McGrath
State Secretary
Connecticut State Council, Knights of Columbus
state.secretary@ctstatecouncil.org
www.ctstatecouncil.org

State Treasurer Message

Form 185s still outstanding

District 7 – 3, 14017
District 8 – 11405
District 9 – 15991
District 20 – 2616
District 23 – 2087
District 27 – 125
District 29 – 34

Form 365s still outstanding

District 1 – 10705, 16253
District 2 – 53, 14198
District 3 – 3961, 3992
District 5 – 6801, 14326
District 6 – 12698
District 7 – 2, 3, 12289, 14017
District 8 – 3901, 6305
District 9 – 15991
District 10 – 3037, 9358
District 13 – 10865
District 19 – 2287
District 20 – 28, 11436, 14014
District 23 – 49, 2087, 2336
District 25 – 32, 35, 4376
District 26 – 1395
District 27 – 125, 1943
District 28 – 27, 31, 8011, 13862
District 29 – 34, 2364, 12705
District 30 – 2968

State Advocate Message

REMINDER AS OF DECEMBER 2020– CHANGES AND UPDATES TO THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS SAFE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM

- Praesidium is moving to a new training platform on April 1, 2021
- Email addresses will be mandatory for every member to retain access, and to be counted towards a council's compliance for Fraternal Year End 2020-21
- Please have your District Deputies check the Safe Environment Member Status Report in Officers Online and reach out to any members who don't have an email listed and assist them in adding a valid email address, unique, personal to him, to his membership profile with the Knights of Columbus.
 - **PLEASE NOTE:** generic emails will no longer work, e.g., gkcouncil1@gmail.com will no longer work
- Guidance on how to use the Safe Environment Member Status Report and the Safe Environment Participation Report, which are both updated each week in Officers Online:
 - The **Safe Environment Member Status Report** shows the **compliance** of each member appointed into the roles that require training and background checks.
 - DDs may view each member's due date and then follow up if a member doesn't complete all assigned requirements by their due date; if a member does not complete their training by their due date, they will switch to a status of Non-Compliant.
 - Directors and counsellors are automatically removed from their roles once they become non-compliant; this means that the council has to submit an updated form 365 (for program, family, and community directors) or 468 (for counsellors) to restart the process. This is a lot of work all around so it's best for members to complete their assigned training and background checks when they're first assigned.
 - Also, please remind everyone that, once the training or background check is completed, compliance is valid for 3 years; so if a council appoints members into the same roles the following year, it is likely that those members will still be fully compliant.
 - The **Safe Environment Participation Report** ONLY details whether or not the required **roles are filled** and does **NOT** address members' compliance status. When you view that report, you'll see a member number listed if a role is filled, and a zero if it is not filled.

This report helps everyone to focus in on those councils that need to fill or refill roles.

You may see councils listed that have all zeros which means that not even a grand knight is appointed.

Additionally, councils in which a grand knight holds all 4-council level required roles even if he has completed the training and the background check will NOT be considered compliant with the Knights of Columbus Safe Environment Program. This practice, which only a tiny minority of councils have employed, has never met the standard of having at least 2 fully compliant members at all events where youth or other vulnerable persons may be present. This standard is in effect for the current 2020-21 Fraternal Year. Grand Knights of councils who fall into this category are strongly advised to recruit members willing and able to step up and into each of these key leadership roles as soon as possible.

For more information go to www.kofc.org/safe.

Liability Insurance for Councils and Assemblies

Every Council and Assembly needs to protect itself and its members with a General Liability (GL) insurance policy which names its Parish and Diocese as Additional Insured parties. More Parishes are now requiring proof of this. If your Council or Assembly needs GL insurance, contact the State Secretary Matt McGrath at state.secretary@ctstatecouncil.org. We have a program through Lockton Affinity which provides very good coverage at low rates. Directors and Officers (D&O) insurance is also available. GL insures against claims for personal injury or property damage. D&O insures against claims arising from decisions by the Council or Assembly.

Home Corporations

If your Council uses a home corporation facility (sometimes called a "council home," "Knight's Hall," "KofC Club" etc.), then you are required to follow the instructions in the Handbook for Councils Using Home Corporation Facilities, and to sign the Terms of Use Agreement (a rental or license agreement) and the Charitable Distribution Agreement (which clarifies the Council's rights in case the building gets sold or the corporation terminates). Handbooks were widely distributed in the past and everything is available on the Officers Desk Reference on the kofc.org website. Any Council that uses a home corporation but has not done this is in violation of the Laws and Rules of the Order. If you have questions, contact the State Advocate Bill Macnamara at state.advocate@ctstatecouncil.org.

Council & Assembly Tax Filing / IRS Form 990

The K of C Supreme Council is exempt from income tax under Section 501(c)(8) of the Internal Revenue Code, because it is a fraternal benefit society that provides insurance benefits to members. Local Councils and Assemblies get the same tax-exempt status, provided that they comply with the requirement to file a Form 990 tax return every year. Councils and Assemblies with less than \$50,000 in annual revenue can use the Form 990-N, which is an easy, free online filing that requires very little information and takes just a few minutes. Councils or Assemblies with more revenue have to do a longer form. If a Council or Assembly does not file for 3 years, it will lose its tax-exempt status. Getting it back takes a bit of work, a long application form, and may also require a fee of \$600. You do not want to have to deal with this, so file the form. If the IRS sees a lot of Councils and Assemblies that do not care about their tax status or filing forms, it may begin to wonder why we have tax exempt status at all. If you have questions, contact the State Advocate Bill Macnamara at state.advocate@ctstatecouncil.org.

Respectfully Submitted,

William P. Macnamara, III

“A Call to Action” for All Catholic Men

Through the efforts of Brother Knights in Mystic Council #1943, a series of retreats have been initiated to understand our current moral crisis in society and its impact on the Church and to challenge men into action as a : Catholic man, loving husband, caring father. The current programs available are Saturday 7:30AM through Sunday noon Mass, or just one full day. Learn how Jesus can be a life changing, energizing force in your life. For more information, please contact Retreat Director Bill Bertsche at bertsche@sbcglobal.net, Knights Mentor Pete Balestracci at plabal386@gmail.com, or Lou Tedeschi at lctedeschi@comcast.net or 860-464-2453.