



Newsletter of The Archdiocese of Cincinnati

Knights of Columbus – September 2026

Celina Coldwater St. Henry Fort Recovery Sidney Versailles Greenville Russia
Covington Wapakoneta St. Marys Minster Russells Point McCartyville Springfield
Urbana Bellefontaine Fairborn Eaton Huber Heights Vandalia Englewood Piqua Troy
Tipp City New Carlisle Dayton Xenia Beavercreek Centerville Kettering Oxford
Hamilton Fairfield Harrison North Bend Monroe West Chester Carthage Sharonville
New Burlington Norwood Shandon Wilmington Morrow Mason Lebanon Milford
Loveland Springfield Middletown Miamisburg Franklin Trenton Cincinnati Ripley
Fayetteville Hillsboro West Union Waynesville



Councils gear up for the fall

After vacations wrap up, the kids go back to school, and we take advantage of the Labor Day three day weekend to relax our councils really kick it into third gear. September is a great time to start scheduling your council's church drive. The "Culture of Invitation" Church Drive (the drive formerly known as the BCP church drive) is a great way to invite men to join our Order and your council. Inviting men to join is a year round activity and is no longer confined to a couple of months each fraternal year - it's a year round vocation.

These new church drive kits can be ordered online from Supreme or your field agent may already have everything you need. We have seen nothing but success with this new church drive so there's no reason to not give it a try. If there is an aspect of the church drive your pastor is not comfortable with feel free to adjust it. Work with your District Deputy, Field Agent and even our diocesan growth director to help make it successful. It's past time to bring in some young blood. After all we are all getting older!

September

Hopefully your councils are already selling **Football Frenzy Tickets**. Remember sales not only support the state but also your council. Your financial secretary can tell you how much of a state per capita rebate you received for this year based on last year's sales.

September is a great month to schedule your council's **Soccer Challenge**. Throughout Ohio the archdiocese does extremely well with this activity. We have had a number of State and International winners over the years. For information contact your district deputy.

October

October is **Respect Life Month**. The Ohio March for Life will be held on Friday, October 2 in Columbus. Work with your parish to get a group together to attend. We are also looking for volunteers to help during the event. More information can be found in this issue.

You can register to volunteer at them march here:

<https://marchforlife.quorum.us/campaign/OHMFL26/>

An **Exemplification of the Patriotic Degree** will be held on October 10th at Saint Max Kolbe Church, 5720 Hamilton-Mason Road, Hamilton, OH 45011.

October also hosts the **regional soccer challenge** at John XXIII Catholic School in Middletown on Sunday, October 11th. Details in this issue.

Trunk or Treat events are also hosted by councils as an alternative to Halloween house to house visits. These events work very well for smaller children who tire early and these are often much less scary.

November

Several important events occur in November. Traditionally the first week is **Vocations Week** as established by the USCCB. What a great time to take up a collection for the **Support Our Seminarians** program. This year we hope to top \$30,000 for Arch Vocations Director Father Willig.

November 11th is **Veterans Day**. A number of our Fourth Degree Assemblies offer programs at our schools to commemorate the day including flag raising and speakers.

Many councils collect food for distribution to the needy in our communities together with local Saint Vincent de Paul conferences. It is also a great time to donate to local food banks which is an important way to serve our communities. This year Supreme is offering the **Join and Serve Challenge** for growing our brotherhood while serving our community. See Arch Growth Coordinator Bill Johannsen's article in this issue for more information.

May we continue to invite men to join us and do the things we do in Charity, in Unity, and with Fraternity.

—Vivat Jesus!

Michael J. Felerski – State Deputy

We Are Called

"It is better to attempt something
GREAT and Fail, than to attempt
NOTHING and Succeed"

Ken Latham
Territorial Growth Director



Join & Serve Challenge

To continue our efforts in expanding our charitable impact, Membership Growth and Programs have teamed up once again to bring you a new challenge this fall - the Join & Serve Challenge!

To qualify councils must fulfill their entire membership quota by November 30th and participate in the Food for Families program (min. \$500 or 1,000 lbs donated).

Your Prize Includes

- 8 custom embroidered KofC aprons
- 8 custom embroidered KofC baseball hats
- Plus, a bragging rights competition – councils who submit photos of their gear in action will be entered in for a chance to win a \$200 gift certificate to Knights Gear!

Why Join? Member Benefits:

Columbia Magazine — Free subscription to the Order's award-winning magazine examining issues of concern to Knights, Catholics and families.

Knights of Columbus rosary — Blessed by the supreme chaplain, presented during the Exemplification of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity to each new member.

Mass of Remembrance Each Weekday —

Celebrated for deceased members and their wives at St. Mary's Church, the birthplace of the Order.

Insurance — Access to a portfolio of top-quality life insurance, long-term care insurance, disability income insurance and annuity products exclusive for members, their spouses and their dependent children.

Family Fraternal Benefit* — Benefits for children of insured members that include guaranteed-issue insurability under age 18 and automatic death benefits for children dying before age 61 days.

Orphan Fraternal Benefit* — Provides monthly benefits and college scholarships to each eligible orphan of insured members.

Member/Spouse Fraternal Benefit — Accidental death benefit for member in good standing and spouse at no additional cost.

Widow Benefits — a) continues to be covered under the Member/Spouse Fraternal Benefit; b) the surviving spouse of a Knights of Columbus insured may purchase life insurance, long-term care insurance or annuities after insured member's death; c) receives a free lifetime subscription to Columbia; d) eligible with her children for scholarships.

Join & Serve Challenge

Grow our brotherhood while serving your community and win big!

The Incentive
Fulfill your entire membership quota by November 30th and participate in the Food for Families (min. \$500 for 1,000 lb donated) program to qualify!

Your Prize Includes

- 8 custom embroidered KofC aprons
- 8 custom embroidered KofC baseball hats
- And a bragging rights competition! Councils who submit photos of their gear in action will be entered in for a chance to win a \$200 gift certificate to Knights Gear!

Important Details

- Membership intake counts from July 1, 2026
- Membership quota deadline is November 30, 2026
- Food for Families participation is required by November 30, 2026
- Food for Families application must be received by January 1, 2027

Use this opportunity to welcome new men into the Knights while making a meaningful difference for families in your community. The more brother Knights we have, the larger impact we can all make!

(A \$250 value!)

* For insurance jurisdictions only. Other restrictions apply

Scholarships — Scholarship programs for higher education available to members, their spouses and children.

Leadership Development — Opportunity to build personal leadership skills, public speaking ability, organizational skills, etc.

Fourth Degree — Eligibility to join the Patriotic Degree.

Honorary Life Membership — At age 70 with 25 years of membership.

Membership Card — Entitles participation in all Catholic, fraternal and social activities in member's council and also in over 15,000 councils throughout the world.

Activities — Participation in a variety of programs and activities conducted by your council.

**Subject to eligibility requirements, conditions and restrictions.*

INVITE A MAN TO JOIN TODAY!



Worthy Arch DDs, the **Arch Regional Soccer Challenge** is 7 weeks away on Sunday October 11 – yes, it's coming fast! It is time to think about conducting your District competitions if you have more than one council participating in the challenge. If you have only one council, those winners can go directly to the Regional contest in Middletown on Sunday October 11.

Regional Competition
John XXIII Catholic School
3806 Manchester Rd, Middletown, OH 45042
Sunday October 11 – starts at 1pm sharp!

Link to Soccer Challenge page on the Supreme website: <https://www.kofc.org/resources/officer-resources/engagement/faith-in-action-programs/guides/10618-soccer-challenge-guidesheet/>

PLEASE NOTE: last year, out of 12 possible State Champs (6 Girls & 6 Boys), all 7 of our Regional winners – 4 Boys and 3 Girls – were named State Champs based on their Regional score! It could have been more, but we had no shows for 2 of the Boys age groups and 3 of the Girls age groups. The point? If the kids show up at the Regional competition, Cincinnati has a great chance of sweeping the State!

Please advise of questions. Again.....District Deputies, please scan and send copies of the scoresheets for winners you are advancing to the Regional!

Vivat Jesus!
Thomas Hahn
tjhahnkofc@outlook.com



New Supreme Family of the Month Form

All Family of the Month (FOM) entries should be submitted using the new **Family of the Month Form**.

This form should be used to submit FOM entries going forward, **not** the Fraternal Program Report Form #10784. Also, Supreme is aware of issues affecting the current online #10784 form and are working to resolve them.

Remember to continue to submit your monthly Family of the year on the State Website (kofcohio.org) for the State Program. Winners will be announced by Supreme monthly and posted on the state Facebook page. Overall winners for the state program will be awarded at the 2027 State Convention in Covington next May.



Honoring Our Founder

Blessed Michael McGivney founded the Knights of Columbus in 1882 to support Catholic families, strengthen parish communities, and provide charity to those in need. More than 140 years later, his vision continues to inspire millions of Knights around the world.

The Ohio Knights of Columbus are proud to partner with Sorrowful Mother Shrine to construct a dedicated chapel honoring Blessed Michael McGivney and his enduring legacy of faith, charity, unity, and fraternity.

This chapel will serve as a place of prayer, reflection, and celebration of the Holy Mass for pilgrims visiting one of Ohio's most beloved Catholic shrines. *I am so excited about this great opportunity to honor our founder here in Ohio – Michael J. Felerski, State Deputy.*

**Support the Campaign,
Here is how to make a donation...**

Make Checks Payable to:

Ohio Charity Foundation
Memo: Father McGivney Chapel

Mail to:

Larry Moegling, Charity Foundation Treasurer
202 Bohl Drive
Marietta, OH 45750
Questions, please email:
mcgivneychapelohio@gmail.com



Ohio Charity Foundation Knights of Columbus High School Scholarship Program

Purpose: The Ohio Knights of Columbus Scholarship Program was established to provide tuition assistance to Catholic High School students attending an Ohio Catholic High School.

Rules:

- Applicant must be a Catholic High School Student currently attending an Ohio Catholic High School.
- Application must be prepared and submitted by the student.
- A current grade transcript, or grade card for freshmen, must also be submitted.
- Current GPA must be at least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale.
- Applications must be received by the end of business deadline of Monday, December 1.
- Applications may not be accepted by mail requiring a signature confirmation.
- No high school will receive more than one \$1,000 scholarship in a school year.

Website: <https://www.ohiocharityfoundation.org>

Key Dates:

- Early September – Applications, Rules, and Bulletin Board Announcements are emailed to all Ohio Catholic High School Principals and Guidance Counselors. They are also posted on the Ohio Knights of Columbus Website at: <http://www.kofcoho.org/scholarships>
- December 1 – Scholarship submission deadline.
- Mid December – Scholarship winners are notified by email. All schools are notified by email of all winners and the Winners' List is posted on the Ohio Charity Foundation Website.
- Mid-January through March – Checks are formally presented to the winners.





Jason Staas – General Agent
Jeff Cummons – Assistant General Agent
Chad Muhlenkamp – Assistant General Agent

Fraternal
Benefits

Do you want to *waive* your *per capita* this year?

Recruit your top men to become Knights of Columbus Financial Professionals! Just **one** successful candidate equals 100% reduction in assessment.



1

Promote the Career to Your Members

Learn more about the career
at www.kofc.org/agentcareers
and visit Supplies online to find
all promotional materials

2

Have Your Candidate Apply

Scan the QR code below,
and be sure the candidate
uses the referral code:
2026Incentive

3

Your Candidate Becomes an Agent

After becoming an Agent,
he will complete a
training program

4

Your Agent Completes Six Months

Your candidate must
complete six months under
contract as an Agent for
your council to qualify

5

All Per Capita Fees Waived

All per capita fees waived
at the end of the applicable
billing cycles



Knights of
Columbus®

To apply, scan the QR Code,
using the referral code:
2026Incentive



Referral Incentive only applies to FA's with at least 6 months of tenure.
Per Capita includes all Supreme Council Assessments for the 2026 Fraternal year.

20541 12/25

**This applies only to a council's Supreme per capita. Council State per capita payment is not waved.*



State Life Director
Michael Incorvati



Life



Ohio
MARCH for LIFE

October 2, 2026

PRE-RALLY CONCERT 10 AM
RALLY 11 AM | MARCH 12 PM
THE OHIO STATEHOUSE
1 Capitol Sq., Columbus, OH 43215
MarchforLife.org/Ohio

- 9:00 a.m. Ohio Mass for Life will take place at St. Joseph Cathedral in downtown Columbus where Archbishop Casey of Cincinnati, Bishop Fernandes of Columbus, and Bishop Thomas of Toledo will celebrate the Holy Mass
- 10:00 a.m. Pre-Rally Concert
- 11:00 a.m. Rally - Main stage on West Lawn of Statehouse
- 12:00 p.m. March for Life - Following the Rally, we will line up along S. High St., starting at the corner of S. High St. and E. Broad St.. The route will begin and end at the statehouse grounds.



Matching Funds



Faith

Matching Funds Campaign Has Kicked Off!

This year's Matching Funds campaign will continue to contribute to the successful implementation of the multi-year process of pastoral planning for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. Parishes are the centers of missionary outreach. Families of Parishes are finding new ways to foster missionary discipleship among all the baptized. Schools, parishes, and indeed the domestic Church itself will be centers of this essential work.

In order for our parishes to be centers of missionary outreach they need to continue their evangelization plan attending to the following vision points:

- **Missionary Discipleship:** Implement a simple and clear discipleship process for all ages that ultimately equips and commissions missionary disciples for personal apostolate and vocation.
- **Grounded in Discernment:** The pastor, staff, and lay leaders prioritize prayer, formation, and discernment in order to allow the Holy Spirit to inspire their evangelization efforts.
- **Family Partnership:** The domestic church is the primary place of evangelization of young people and is well supported by the parish.
- **Prioritize Adult Formation:** The principal form for evangelization and catechesis is directed toward adults and is given priority.

- **Effective Schools:** Parish schools become an essential ministry of the parish by being an "effective vehicle of total Christian formation" for young people and their parents.
- **A Culture of Vocation:** Prepare individuals to discern and embrace their vocation. Support parents as they cultivate vocations within the family, help single young people actively discern their vocation, and accompany couples through the marriage catechumenate.

These funds will be reinvested by the Archdiocese of Cincinnati Pastoral Planning Process especially in the planning for evangelization. Your donation today will help shape the church in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati for the one hundred years.

Once again our Knights of Columbus Ohio Charity Foundation is matching the FIRST \$25,000 so we need to get our Matching Funds donations in as soon as possible.

Councils who have already budgeted for this program should be able to send their checks in without a motion from the floor.

Make checks payable to: **Ohio State Council K of C**

Send your checks to: State Advocate Tony Offenberger
15200 Muskingum River Rd
Lowell OH 45744-7115



Supporting our Indiana Neighbors just across the Border

Brother Knights, councils, and assemblies provided various dry goods for the victims of the recent flooding in the Connersville, IN area which is right across the border from southwest Ohio. State District Deputy Director John Hoffman was appointed by State Deputy Michael Felerski to be the State Disaster Relief Director for the effort. Director Hoffman secured a Uhaul and filled it with donations on Saturday, August 29th. Assisting John in this effort was District Deputy Jeremy Begines.

Along with the completely full truck, and additional pickup truck filled with bottled water also followed to deliver the much needed supplies.

Thank you to all who donated and helped load.

We Are Called - and We Answered the Call



Robert Burns Awarded the 2026 Paul R. Gruhler Award

During the August 19th Dayton Chapter meeting at Bainbridge Hall Robert Burns was awarded the 2026 Paul R. Gruhler Award by Chapter President Vic Lauterbach. The award recognizes the recipient's outstanding contributions to our Order as a member of the Dayton Chapter.

Paul R. Gruhler became a Third Degree member in 1930. He subsequently held almost every office within his council including two terms as Grand Knight. He was appointed as a district deputy under three consecutive State Deputies: John King, James Lavey and Edward McHugh. He joined the Fourth Degree in 1942, and the same year was elected Faithful Navigator. He served the Ohio State Council as Treasurer, Secretary and State Deputy (1949-1951). PSD Gruhler was a member of Dayton 500.



Fairborn Council Welcomes and Feeds Returning Students

The Fairborn Knights of Columbus Council 3724 had the pleasure to once again participate in the fall welcome back picnic at the St. John Bosco Chapel Catholic Campus Ministry at Wright State University. Following an outdoor Mass by Father Jarred Kohn, 15+ Knights stepped up to prepare at wonderful cookout for over 150 students. What an honor to serve these young Catholic adults as they continue their quest for knowledge and faith.

Supporting our Local Youth Athletics Programs

Saint Henry Council 2640 hosted the football team for a season opening team meal on Thursday August 20, 2026 the night before the 'Skins took in Celina. The Celina Bulldogs edged the visiting St. Henry Redskins football team by a score of 38-35 in Friday's non-league challenge.



Cincinnati Archdiocese

Quick Reference Guide 2025-2026



Web Sites...

State Council Website: www.kofcoho.org
Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/OhioKnightsOfColumbus/
Dayton Chapter: www.daytonkofc.org
Cincinnati Chapter: www.cincykofc.org
Facebook Page: Search for: ArchCincykofc

About The Arch...

A newsletter featuring relevant news and information for Knights in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati published twelve times a year! It can be viewed and downloaded at: www.daytonkofc.org/DayCh_Arch_Newsletter.html

To subscribe for delivery directly to your email inbox, please contact Michael Thomas at: michaeldthomas@aol.com

State Deputy

Michael J. Felerski
1580 Gelhot Dr. #234
Fairfield, OH 45014

mfelerski@icloud.com

Matching Funds*

State Advocate Tony Offenberger
15200 Muskingum River Rd
Lowell OH 45744-7115

tonyoffenberger@gmail.com

GET YOUR MATCH by
Mailing your Check in
ASAP!

Has BEGUN!

Measure Up*

State Warden Stewart Vetter
706 Northwest Street
Bellevue OH 44811

BetterWithVetter@hotmail.com

Ending Nov. 15

Super Cash Bonanza*

State Treasurer Chris Sarka
7239 Winterbek Ave
New Albany, OH 43054-9097

c_sarka@hotmail.com

See you in 2027

State Per Capita Payments*

State Secretary Jim Maslach
4927 Autumnwood Ln
Brunswick, OH 44212

kofcjk@gmail.com

*2026-2027
Invoices are
Past DUE*

Support Our Seminarians*

Immediate Past State Deputy
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*Pass the Jug for
2026-2027*

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PRAYER



FORMATION



FRATERNITY

**Your Church Drive &
eMember Experts!**

**They are ready to
help you with your
growth efforts.**

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State Community Director

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State Life Director

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*Make Checks payable to:
Ohio State Council Knights of Columbus