



The Explorer

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SPECIAL CONVENTION ISSUE

MONDAY, MAY 4, 2009

Kansas Catholic Conference

Michael Schuttloffel, Executive Director of the Kansas Catholic Conference gave an update on a number of legislative issues during the Awards ceremony Sunday morning. The Kansas legislative session for 2009 is in its final days. This year's session was dominated by one overriding issue – the budget crisis. The Kansas State Constitution requires the budget to be balanced each year.

The “Stan Clark Pregnancy Maintenance Initiative” funded support services for pregnant women and alternatives to abortion. This initiative was cut from the 2010 budget. Funding for the measure was finally restored for the program with reductions all programs are facing. The Kansas Catholic Conference considers the restoration of funding for this program a success.

Governor Sebelius signed the “Woman’s Right to Know and See Act”. This law represents a great victory for the Pro-Life movement. Abortion providers are required to allow a woman to see the sonogram of her unborn child and to hear the child’s heartbeat, if she so chooses. While seemingly modest, these provisions will in fact save lives. There is a reason abortion providers don’t like women to see the sonogram – it’s not good for business.

Governor Sebelius vetoed SB 218 that would have reinforced existing law concerning late term abortions by tightening reporting rules. Two votes are still needed in both the House and the Senate to override the governor’s veto.

On Friday, the House passed a budget amendment banning Planned Parenthood, the largest abortion provider in the country, through receiving Title X federal funding it currently receives from the state. The amendment gives first priority for federal family planning funding to state, county and local health departments and clinics. Second priority goes to private hospitals and clinics. Planned Parenthood would no longer receive these federal funds. The Senate will take up the bill this week.

Mr. Schuttloffel then gave a brief overview of legislation at the federal level including the restoration of funding for embryonic stem cell research and the beginning of the reversal of the conscience clause for medical personnel. The reversal of the conscience clause would not allow medical personnel to refuse to participate in an abortion or refer a woman for an abortion. Refusal would result in loss of their medical license.

Mr. Schuttloffel thanked the Knights for their support in contacting legislators about these issues and asks that we continue to act when called.

State Convention Mass

The Convention Mass was held at Corpus Christi Catholic Church in Lawrence at 4:30 PM Sunday afternoon. Presiding was Most Reverend Joseph F. Naumann, Archbishop of Kansas City in Kansas. Concelebrants were Most Reverend Eugene J. Gerber, Bishop Emeritus of the Wichita Diocese, Most Reverend George K Fitzsimons, Bishop Emeritus of the Salina Diocese, State Chaplain Rev. David Metz and Chaplains from across Kansas. In his address, Archbishop Naumann expressed the hope that this State Meeting would provide renewal, refreshment, and strength. He said the Knights of Columbus have a mission to stand strong in our Faith in the world today.

Commenting on the Gospel of the Good Shepherd, he remarked that we all like to be known, especially by our name. We need to acknowledge the importance of each individual. Archbishop Naumann stated that God knows each of us by name. He knows each of us uniquely and personally, and we should rejoice in this. Each of us is called to develop a personal friendship and relationship with Jesus. We need to know Him and hear Him as he calls us by name. Like a good shepherd, Jesus sacrificed everything for His flock. We who follow Jesus must also be willing to lay down our lives. We are called to heroic love based on the love of Jesus; the love to sacrifice ourselves for others.

The Archbishop talked about the love of families. The first priority of fathers is to help his children know the love of God, especially when taught by example. He gave examples of leading the family in daily prayer, prayer before meals, the Rosary and reflection on the Sunday Mass Readings. Fathers should be the Spiritual leaders in their family. Children need to see parents make the effort to continue to grow in their love of Jesus through prayer and Eucharistic Adoration. Everyone needs to joyfully share the Grace of knowing the Risen Lord. The good we do for others is the life of Jesus in us. We need to lead others to the Good Shepherd who desires to lead us. We are called to live Faith filled, faithful loving lives.

The Archbishop’s homily was beautifully summed up by the Offertory Hymn, “Because the Lord is My Shepherd”. “Because the Lord is my shepherd, I have everything I need... Lord, you are my shepherd, you are my friend. I want to follow you always, just to follow my friend.”

The Natural Choice is Life

Squire of the Year - Aaron Gnad

Aaron Gnad joined the Squires in 2000. He has held many offices in his local circle as well as the State Circle. In March at the Squires Convention he was elected State Deputy Chief Squire. Aaron has participated in the Commitment to Humanities Drive, helped with Squires Breakfasts and Feather Bingo. Aaron helps run a booth at the Catholic School in Ellis annual Carnival and is a Server at mass. In school he is active in FFA, football, basketball, and baseball. According to Rick Cunningham, Chief Counselor of the Ellis Circle, "Aaron is one these rare young men that comes along once in a while, that as a counselor you are so happy to have as a Squire. I think that he sets a very fine example for the young people in our town by the way he lives his life."

Counselor of the Year - David Klawonn

David is a member of Holy Trinity Council 1149 in Paola and has been active in the Circle since its inception. He has not missed one meeting. David has one son Albert Klawonn who is currently serving as the State Bursar Squire. In the council David is active with council fundraisers. He is an active member of Holy Trinity Parish where is currently involved with Perpetual Adoration.

Circle of the Year - Robert F. Kennedy Circle #2257, Ellis

The Squires in Ellis help teach CCD and with booths to raise money at their annual Catholic School Carnival. They are involved in the Commitment to Humanities Program and the Free Throw Competition. They meet every two weeks. Last year they helped serve the priests that were in attendance at the social after the Convention Mass in Victoria. They also take every opportunity to put news in the local paper telling about the Squires, their activities and how to join.

Kansas State Knight of the Month

Each month we honor a "State Knight of the Month". The winners for this fraternal year to date are:

Month	Name	Council
July	Jamie Andrews	534 Topeka
August	Charles M. Albers	6984 Hays
September	Cecil Flood	3316 Scammon
October	Brent Wood	1993 Goodland
November	Philip V. Lenz	13354 Fort Leavenworth
December	Marvin Hammersmith	834 Horton
January	Michael Waite	1148 Esbon
February	Brad Griffith	7279 Hutchinson

What's Going on Tomorrow?

6:00 - 8:00 am	Breakfast	Brazilian B, C, D
8:00 am	Memorial Mass	Regency Ballroom
9:30 am	Business Session	Regency Ballroom

Tax Filing Information

All Knights of Columbus councils and assemblies must now complete some type of IRS annual filing. If your gross receipts are \$25,000 or less, electronically file form 990N, also known as the e-postcard. If gross receipts are more than \$25,000 file form 990-EZ, unless your gross receipts are over \$100,000, in which case file form 990.

Since most councils and assemblies have gross receipts less than \$25,000 you will be filing the 990N form on line through the IRS website. There is no 990N paper form. To access the filing system, go to the IRS website www.irs.gov. Click on "Charities and Non-Profits" on the bar across the top of the page and it will take to a page where you will see a bolded topic for Form 990N. Once you click on that it will walk you through the on-line e-postcard filing. You will be asked to register and enter the council or assembly's tax identification number. Each council or assembly must have its own tax identification number. This number must be on file at the Supreme office.

The form will ask for your tax year. If you do not have an established tax year, you may choose to use either the calendar year or some other fiscal year, such as the fraternal year which ends June 30. The e-postcard is due every year by the 15th day of the 5th month after the close of your tax year. If your tax year ends December 31 the 990N will be due May 15. You cannot file the e-postcard until after your tax year ends.

The IRS will revoke the tax-exempt status of any organization that fails to meet its annual filing requirement for three consecutive years. Therefore, councils, assemblies and council home corporations that do not file the e-postcard 990N or an information return Form 990 or 990-EZ for three consecutive years, will have their tax-exempt status revoked as of the due date of the third year.

101 Years of Patriotism

By District Master Bill Baalman

The first exemplification of the Fourth Degree in Kansas took place in Topeka on Thanksgiving Day November 28 1907. J. W. Gibbons was appointed the first Master of the Fourth Degree for Kansas and Oklahoma. After 101 years of service I am proud to report that the Fourth Degree remains strong and active and continues to promote the Fourth Principle of our Order "Patriotism".

I invite and encourage all Third Degree Knights to join the Fourth Degree in this the 101st year of the Patriotic Degree in Kansas. The need to support and defend our country's religious freedom and civil laws and duties are ever becoming more vital to the growth and well being of our American heritage.

The upcoming 4th Degree Exemplifications scheduled for this year are: Pittsburg on June 13 and Shawnee on November 14. The new Exemplification Ceremony will be used in Pittsburg and I invite all Sir Knights to witness this very beautiful and meaningful Patriotic uplifting. Vice Supreme Master Francis Schlueter will be in attendance to certify the Degree Team and deliver remarks at the banquet.

Youth Activities Awards

1st - Resurrection Council #11692 Wichita, "Birdhouse Project". The purpose is to allow the youth, 1st graders at Resurrection School, an opportunity to build a birdhouse and learn the tools used for the project. 8 members, 5.97 % of the members participated, 30 hours expended.

2nd - St. Mary Council #4458 Derby, "K of C Bicycle Rodeo". This activity improved bicycle skills of area youth and promoted safe riding habits. 8 council member participated, 3% of members participated, 22 hours expended.

3rd - Belleville Council #2609, "Trunk or Treat". The council hosted this event to provide a fun, safe activity for the youth of the parish. Education about All Souls Day and the true meaning of Halloween were shared with youth at the event. 25 council members, 17% of members participated, 75 hours expended.

Evangelium Vitae Award

Winners by Diocese

Kansas City Archdiocese: #11352 Tonganoxie (New)
Wichita Diocese: # 11692 Wichita Resurrection (Repeat)
Dodge City Diocese: # 2352 Ransom (Repeat)
Salina Diocese: # 2609 Belleville (Repeat)

State Winner

Dodge City Diocese: # 2352 Ransom
(Repeat Winner)

Alcohol Awareness & Abuse Poster Winners

Age 8-11 Division

Alyssa M. Foster
11352 - Bonner Springs
District 38

Age 12-14 Division

Emily Schulze
1510 - Norton
District 43

Drug Awareness & Abuse Poster Winners

Age 8-11 Division

Autumn Lungwitz

Age 12-14 Division

Alleigh Weens

Church Activities Awards

1st - Sacred Heart Council #11352 Tonganoxie, "Religious Education - Classrooms and Hallways Painting Project". The council repaired and repainted five religious classrooms and the main hallway leading into the Church. 35 members participated, 28% of the council's membership for a total of 347 hours.

2nd - Axtell Council #1163, "Cutting Hedge for Automatic Electronic Defibrillators". Members cleared a local farmers field and cut hedge posts and firewood. The hedge posts and firewood were sold at the annual K of C consignment sale. The revenue from the sale purchased new defibrillators for the Church and the school. 26 members participated, 11% of the council's membership for a total of 182 hours.

3rd - Belleville Council #2609, "Train Altar Servers". Seven Brother Knights trained and re-trained 30 - 35 students with the help of Father Cornelius. Since this training session, the students have been anxious to serve. 7 members participated, 4% of the council's membership for total of 10 hours.

Free Throw Champions

GIRLS	NAME	COUNCIL	HOMETOWN	SCORE
10	Taylor Schoep	7909	Olathe	22/25
				20/25 (shoot off 4)
11	Allyson Denning	4113	WaKeeney	19/25
12	Katy Spencer	2217	Andale	20/25
13	Kelsey Ricke	2774	Cunningham	20/25
				20/25 (shoot off 4/5/4)
14	Lexi Riedel	4113	WaKeeney	4/5/4

BOYS	NAME	COUNCIL	HOMETOWN	SCORE
10	Hunter Budke	921	Beloit	22/25
11	Jordan Stevens	12016	Ashland	21/25
12	Avery Fliger	3146	Basehor	23/25
13	Austin Ryan	643	Altamont	21/25
				20/25 (shoot off 5)
14	Kyle Wolf	6673	Lenexa	(shoot off 5)

Commitment to Humanities Award

(Highest Dollar per Member)

Div 1:	Council 12016 Ashland	\$56.58
Div 2:	Council 8505 Hiawatha	\$27.80
Div 3:	Council 7441 Oswego-Chetopa	\$47.17
Div 4:	Council 3146 Basehor	\$27.24
Div 5:	Council 12049 Wichita St. Jude	\$34.60
Div 6:	Council 11692 Wichita Resurrection	\$30.51
Div 7:	Council 5212 Scott City	\$41.22
Div 8:	Council 11534 Overland Park- Holy Cross	\$32.35
Div 9:	Council 8491 Garden City	\$29.44
Div 10:	Council 4458 Derby	\$28.61

District Deputy #32 Bruce Luehring is the winner of the highest District Dollar per Member award with \$24.23 per member.



Community Activity Winners

1st - Liberal Council #338. This Council uses many different functions to fund its Toys for Tots Program. This program included a motorcycle run, a gun raffle, bingo, toy box collections and contributions from individuals. Items were purchased per each child's wish list and then delivered to these needy children. 70 members, 35% of the members participated, 1150 hours expended.

2nd - Resurrection Council #11692, Wichita. This Council participated in "Apostle Build," a Habitat for Humanity Program that was sponsored by the Catholic Diocese of Wichita. 33 members, 25% of the members participated, 176 hours expended.

3rd - St. Mary's Council #657. Council organized two Pro-Life Chains this year. The Life Chains are put together to show the Parish and Community the Knights of Columbus support for all life causes. 104 members, 40% of the members participated, 153 hours expended.



Retiring District Deputies

During the Sunday morning Awards Presentation, State Deputy Francis Drouhard presented the retiring District Deputies an appreciation certificate and thanked them for their outstanding service on behalf of the State and Supreme Councils.

- Charles E. McNally, DD 1 Gary L. Wondra, DD 29
- Ralph Wing, DD 11 Felix A. Rainosek, DD 40
- Russell D. Bunnell, DD 13 Linus A. Pfannenstiel, DD 44
- Douglas E. Wietharn, DD 23 Gregory Augustine, DD 48
- Marcel J. Braun, DD 25 Eugene Schwarz, DD 51
- Byron Noeth, DD 26 Dick Parnell, DD 52
- Daniel B. Wimberly, DD 35

Council Activities Awards

1st – St. Joseph Council #1325, Hays. In memory of Venerable Servant of God Fr. Michael J. McGivney, funds were raised by St. Joseph Council #1325 to construct a beautiful granite monument to display God's Ten Commandments in conjunction with commemorating the council's 100 years of existence. 75 members, 26% of the members participated, 200 man hours expended.

2nd – Christ the King Council #8411, Topeka. Celebration of the 25th anniversary for both Christ the King Council #8411 and 25 years of ordination to the Priesthood for Council Chaplain Fr. Peter O'Sullivan. The event included a Mass of Celebration, a breakfast reception, a social & dinner and a dance. In lieu of gifts, it was suggested that individuals make contributions to the Fr. Peter O'Sullivan Scholarship Fund at Hayden High School. Through the marketing efforts of 102 Knights, over \$13,000 was raised. 102 members, 39% of the members participated, 350+ hours expended.

3rd – Prince of Peace Council #7909, Olathe. During the six weeks of Lent, the council raised funds to support their council's charitable giving by providing a Fish Fry and Boil Shrimp dinner on Fridays during Lent for the Olathe community. The 118 council members that participated served 3,930 meals and raised \$10,651. Leftover food was donated to Catholic Charities. 118 members, 28% of the members participated, 1219 hours expended.

Past Supreme Knight Virgil C. Dechant

Past Supreme Knight Virgil C. Dechant provided comments at the Awards Presentation Sunday morning. He said the first slogan he chose as Supreme Knight was "First and Always Catholic". Members of the Knights must be active in the life of their parish. When Virgil presented the Knights of Columbus project to encourage more vocations to Pope Paul VI, he reminded the Holy Father there were 1.2 million members of the Knights of Columbus at that time. The Holy Father reasoned this number represented 4 to 5 million family members, more people than there were in Ireland when that country produced an abundance of priests that populated missions around the world. Pope Paul VI challenged the Knights to provide the needed vocations from their families to make an impact on the shortage of priests. The challenge of today continues to be a

Family Activities Winners

1st - Council #3273 Larned -- Benefit dinner, raffle and silent auction benefit for Clayton Kelty, age 4, who is suffering from Acute Lymphocytic Leukemia. With the help of his father, John Roy, a council member and 48 other council members, 45% of the council and 193 man hours, the benefit raised \$23,295.74 for Clayton's medical expenses.

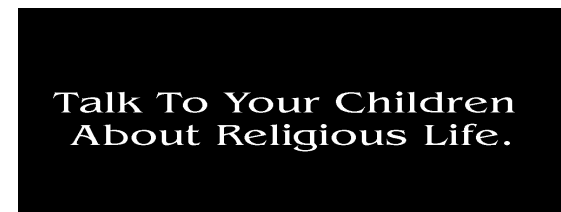
2nd - Council #11352 Tonganoxie -- A Halloween party was held for all members and their families. 43 members participated, 30.17% and they expended 270 man hours.

3rd - Council #1913 St. Paul, Olathe -- A breakfast was held for the children to meet Santa. Over 300 family members attended. 20 members participated, 10% of the council and expended 107 man hours.

Pro-Life Awards

158 Councils Donated \$232,498.27

Div	Council	Amt / Member
1	9242 Galena-Baxter Springs	\$60.33
2	2728 Caldwell	\$87.22
3	6665 Bird City St. Francis	\$87.22
4	3146 Basehor	\$43.03
5	13394 Corning	\$29.00
6	11692 Wichita-Resurrection	\$79.32
7	11352 Tonganoxie-Sacred Heart	\$31.04
8	2866 Oakley	\$49.10
9	8491 Garden City	\$16.19
10	534 Topeka	\$45.38



shortage of priests, but this can be turned around through the efforts of the Knights of Columbus. Virgil shared a message from Pope John Paul II, "There can be no Church without the Eucharist and there can be no Eucharist without priests." Virgil added the Knights need to continue to support their parish priests. He commented our priests need our moral support and prayers, more than money.

Virgil also noted the contribution of the Knights of Columbus to the process of canonization of Venerable Servant of God Father Michael McGivney. In a document promoting the case for canonization, Virgil reported there are at least four notations that Fr. McGivney was a parish priest and founder of the Knights of Columbus. What a great commendation for our Honored Order.