

Gil Spisak – State Deputy

Home Council: #9114, Nativity of Our Savior, Portage, IN

Home Assembly: #240, Fr. Sorin Assembly, Valparaiso, IN

Worthy Brother Knights,

We are looking forward to a Successful 2025-26 Fraternal Year! Let's have the State achieve Circle of Honor!

We are asking <u>YOU</u> to help increase our numbers in membership as part of the mission. We need <u>YOU</u> to reach out and invite a Catholic man to join us in our mission. Encourage them to engage in our charitable activities, grow in their faith alongside us, and experience the transformative impact of being a Knight.

Let us remain steadfast in our Mission – Our mission is clear: To empower Catholic men to live their faith and serve their family, parish, community, and country. Together, we can make a significant and lasting difference in the lives of many. **Your** participation is vital in helping us grow and fulfill this mission.

Yes, it is about the numbers – we ARE asking **YOU** to increase our number of members – and Again – YES, it is about increasing the numbers to be able to Grow and Strengthen the Knights of Columbus Membership and increase our Faith and Charity by increasing the number of members! If we aren't growing, then we are dying – look around your council, are your members dying off faster than the council is gaining new members – THINK ABOUT IT! Your council's good works throughout the years will Die Off if you don't bring in more members!

Are YOU one of the complainers and whiners about the request to increase our numbers, to where your council and the Knights eventually die out, or are you a dedicated Knight working to advance your council and strengthen our Order in Faith and our Charitable acts, by bringing in Catholic Men to join and be Knights.

As mentioned in a Supreme presentation:

We grow today for tomorrow.

- Our councils need to understand this. We want them around for another 100 years.
- It is about growing not just rewards.
- Rewards are for those that do well.

Let us continue this mission by inviting Catholic Men to share in the gift of Knighthood with us.

Mission of the Order

The Knights of Columbus empowers Catholic men to live their faith and serve their family, parish, community and country.

Vision of the Order

Founded by Blessed Michael McGivney in 1882, the Knights of Columbus is the premier lay Catholic men's organization. Guided by the principles of charity, unity and fraternity, we build lifelong relationships with our members and families. We are multigenerational and international. We offer formation, mutual aid and financial security to members through our charity, products and outreach. We aspire to invite every Catholic man to join the Knights of Columbus and to extend our charitable reach as widely as possible.

OUTSTANDING CHARITY CHECKS (Update):

Please note in my previous July emailed letter to the councils about the 2024-25 Charity account State Treasurer issue – Charity account checks for 2025-26 will need to be mailed along with the form to our new State Treasurer – Ryan Grill. If you submitted a check last year to our previous State Treasurer and have not received the requested check(s) from the State, please email your initial form (and check #) to our new State Treasurer at statetreasurer@indianakofc.org, since checks we received from the previous State Treasurer needed to be deposited or were deposited, but we did not receive many of the forms with the various charities listed and amounts for the checks to be written. Our current State Treasurer is working to complete these.

NOTE: Per Capita payment checks are to be sent to the State Secretary, Bob Zielinski.

Membership Drives

Join our efforts to grow the Order by participating in membership drives at your local parish. If your council hasn't held or planned the required Fall Membership Drive to invite Catholic men into the order, it's not too late to invite with a membership drive at your parish!

Thank You to those councils who have already held and submitted their Membership Drive info to their District Deputy! For assistance – membership@indianakofc.org

As the saying goes "Many hands make light work!"

EVERYONE - KNIGHTS and ALL Councils should be Inviting men to Join Us! - As "Fishers of Men"!

FISHERS of MEN - Inviting and Bringing Men into the Order to Join Us! REMEMBER:

WINIE WIDER.

It's not about a number.

It's not about a reward.

It's about mission. It's about obligation.

Every Catholic man deserves what you and I have.

Catholic men are waiting. They are waiting to be invited. Just ASK!

Please use the following link in English, https://www.kofc.org/secure/en/join/join-kofc.html

JOIN ONLINE FOR FREE!

As we continue to celebrate Blessed Michael J. McGivney's Beatification, please enter the Promo Code **BLESSEDMCGIVNEY** to join online for free. *

Fraternal Leadership Advisory

As we continue the 2025 – 2026 Fraternal Year, we still have many Knights who do not receive the Fraternal Leadership Advisory (FLA). Grand Knights, Financial Secretaries, Council Officers, and District Deputies, and those newly elected for the 2025-26 year, should be signed up to receive the FLA along with anyone involved in council events. Are YOU receiving the **Fraternal Leadership Advisory** from Supreme to stay up to date??? If not, you can sign up at https://www.kofc.org/en/news-room/fraternal-leader-advisory/index.html and it will help guide you with current and future events and the information needed.

Council Forms # 185 & 365 - PAST DUE - SUBMIT NOW

Every local council should have submitted their Officer Report Form #185 and Program Personnel Report Form #365 for this fraternal year. Submission of these report forms in a timely fashion is the only way that local councils can let the Supreme Council know who needs to receive council officer leadership information and programming communications throughout the fraternal year. If your council hasn't submitted these, please submit as soon as possible!

ACCESS #185 INFORMATION BELOW:

Report of Officers Chosen for the Term - Council Form 185

ACCESS #365 INFORMATION BELOW:

Service Program Personnel Report - Council Form 365

Please submit the completed form to FraternalMission@KofC.org, StateDeputy@IndianaKofC.org, and Program@indianakofc.org

REMINDER: Semi-Annual Council Audits (Form 1295) – Due 8/15/2025 in PDF format!

All councils need to submit the <u>Semi-Annual Council Audit</u> (#1295) - due August 15. These audits are necessary to maintain the bonding on council treasurers and financial secretaries. View this <u>short tutorial</u> on how to successfully complete and submit this form to help with any questions you may have. Forms not submitted in PDF format may not be processed – DO NOT send pictures of a completed form – Should be in PDF Format.

Important Cor Reminders

- Every Council is Required to have an Evangelization and Faith Formation (EFF) Director
 - The <u>Council EFF Director Submission Form</u> is vital to our collective success. These reports and data directly benefit your State EFF Director.
 - NOTE: the Council EFF Director position is <u>not</u> listed on Form #365 and needs to be submitted via the <u>Council EFF Director Submission Form</u>.
 - <u>Cor Central</u> If you or someone on your team isn't receiving the Cor Central newsletter, you can sign up here: <u>Subscribe to Cor Central</u>

Knights of Columbus Coats for Kids® Updates

The Knights of Columbus has worked closely with our supplier, Knights Gear, to secure high-quality coats at an affordable price for this year's Coats for Kids program. As in previous years, the final cost of coats reflects several external factors. Due to increased costs for the programs, prices for coats have increased by \$3 per coat (+\$36 per case of 12 coats) for toddler, child, youth, teen, and adult size coats. Lightweight coats have increased by \$1.50 per coat (+\$36 per case of 24 coats). Please visit the Coats for Kids pages on KnightsGear.com for this year's selection of coats. Some councils downloaded an older (2024-25) Order form on State Forms webpage, but prices were updated to reflect the increase on the current form - https://indianakofc.org/Resources/Forms/Indiana-Council-Forms

Councils will be REQUIRED to pay the current prices for the coats.

Please refer to KnightsGear Coats for Kids for the latest prices.

Additionally, Supreme will again offer state councils BOGO (Buy One, Get One) sales for coats. To receive consideration, submit your proposal to the State Community Director before September 12, 2025. **Note:** This is a Buy One, Get One and NOT a buy one at half price.

All orders and payments must be made to the "Indiana State Council" and check payments mailed to the State Secretary, Bob Zielnski. All Black Friday proposals submitted by state councils must be approved by Supreme's Fraternal Operations Department before state councils can place their order. Please note that due to the increased costs of this program, there will be limits on the number of coats that Supreme will match for each jurisdiction. Please anticipate that your jurisdiction may receive fewer free coats as part of this incentive this year – Councils submitting orders will be responsible for any difference. Finally, as a reminder, the purpose of the BOGO incentive is to donate coats AND to invite men to join the Order during membership drives.

All resources for the Coats for Kids program and BOGO incentive can be found <a href="https://example.com/here.

On Demand Training Is Always Available

Visit **kofc.org/training** to find our complete library of on demand training, where state, district and council officers can go to learn more about their duties and responsibilities, as well as review best practices for the daily operations of an assembly or council, tips for membership growth, and timely suggestions for using programs to keep members actively engaged.

Here's an example of what you will find – click on the links below to register and view at any time:

<u>Conducting Church Drives</u> – Find out what a successful Church Drive looks like, and how to plan one for your council.

<u>Conducting Activity Drives</u> – Make your council a visible part of the Church and Community.

<u>Online Tools and Resources</u> – How to find the guides, forms and information housed in the Officers Online and For Members portals of the <u>kofc.org website</u>.

<u>Time Management</u> – An opportunity to learn some best practices for handling everyday tasks and long-term goals when limited time is available to manage the day-to-day operations of a council. <u>Working With Your Pastor</u> – We discuss the necessity of building strong relationships with our pastors, so that we can assist them in strengthening and growing parish communities.

GIBAULT - ENVOY CONFERENCE / PICNIC (Sept. 27th, 2025)

This event is open to ALL KNIGHTS, Grand Knights and Envoys should be there.

Please join us September 27th for the 40th annual envoy conference, open house, and picnic. **This event** is open to everyone. Please complete the fillable form and email it to melissa.reed@gibault.org. We look forward to seeing you there September 27th.

Form Link: https://www.gibault.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/Envoy-Fillable-form.pdf

<u>Disaster Relief - Tornado / Hurricane / Flood Response</u>

Bill McDonald, our State Disaster Relief Chairman is continuing to request the needed donations to support the disaster response team's efforts to help with recovery for natural disaster damage affected areas. Contact Bill if your community needs assistance with any disaster, especially with the recent tornado's - disasterresponse@indianakofc.org

<u>To donate</u>, please submit your donation check to Charity Fund Inc. made payable to Indiana State Council and mail to CFI Board Treasurer, PSD Paul Zielinski, 4974 Roxbury Ct. Pittsboro, IN 46167 and "Disaster Response" in the Memo line.

FORMS:

State: https://indianakofc.org/Resources/Forms/Indiana-Council-Forms

Supreme: https://www.kofc.org/en/for-members/resources/council-forms.html

It's important to make sure all forms emailed are submitted in the required PDF format according to the State Program Guide. Forms submitted in other formats JPG, GIF, or PNG might not be accepted and could cause processing delays. If you need any help with converting files or have other questions, contact your District Deputy or the State Trainer, Mike Kovacs (<u>trainer@indianakofc.org</u>) or State IT-Admin, Roger Reuss (<u>itadmin@indianakofc.org</u>)!

To All Councils, Assemblies, and Brother Knights:

Thank you for your continued hard work and dedication. We look forward to collaborating with you throughout the 2025-26 Fraternal year. Your actions, deeds, and service exemplify Christ's teachings and help us grow in faith and charity. As Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly said, "Striving to be first in Faith and Charity will point the world to Jesus Christ."

"We are MEN on a MISSION!" - A Mission from God!

The State Team of Officers, Chairmen & Directors, and District Deputies are eager to serve and work together to advance our mission. Contact us if you need assistance or information or would like to make a difference by joining our State Council Team. https://indianakofc.org/Contact-Us/State-Officers

As we continue in the 2025-26 Fraternal year, let us commit ourselves to our mission: to invite, to serve, and to grow in faith. Each invitation you extend brings us closer to fulfilling our mission and making a lasting impact. Together, we can ensure the future of the Knights of Columbus remains bright and strong.

Vivat Jesus and God Bless!

Gil Spisak – State Deputy
Indiana State Council Knights of Columbus
StateDeputy@IndianaKofC.org
"Men on a Mission!"

