



**Gil Spisak – State Deputy**

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

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

**Worthy Brother Knights,**

**State Convention (Recap) (April 17–19, 2026)**

Wow, what a truly great time was shared at the Indiana State Convention, held April 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>, 2026, at the Grand Wayne Convention Center in Fort Wayne. The 125<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Indiana State Council brought together Brother Knights and their wives from across the state for a weekend of fellowship, learning, and renewed commitment to the growth of our Order.

In addition to the business sessions, there were many great events that took place over the weekend, including many breakout / training sessions on Leveraging Electronic Payments for Councils by State Treasurer Ryan Grill, How to effectively run a meeting by State Program Director Dave Negrete, Insurance Event with our General Agent Phil Stackowicz, Gibault Informational meeting with CEO Michele Madley and Fund Development Director Melissa Reed, and the Sacred Heart Icon by Deacon Jacob Miller. The Financial Secretaries held their Annual Meeting sharing much information and training.

There were many display tables throughout the main hallways with a lot of great information in the displays along with literature/handouts. We had the Gibault Raffle Drawing on Saturday and many great speakers throughout the weekend. There was a collection for the Women’s Care Centers (WCC) and Aid and Support After Pregnancy (ASAP) programs.

We had our Friday Vocations Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception celebrated by our State Chaplain Rev. Gregory Bim-Merle along with several other Clergy members, and we were blessed to have Bishop Rhoades celebrate Mass with us at the Cathedral on Saturday, and then speak to us at the dinner.

There were many great speakers over the weekend, including Deacon Jacob Miller from the Lafayette Diocese, who will soon be ordained to the priesthood. We also had Fr. Zane Langenbrunner, Parochial Vicar at St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Fort Wayne. Monica Kelsey of Safe Haven Baby Boxes also delivered an inspiring presentation following the Bishop’s remarks and again to the ladies on Sunday morning.

**Congratulations to the State Officers Elected for the 2026–2027 Fraternal Year:**

- State Deputy Elect – Robert “Bob” Zielinski
- State Secretary Elect – Ryan Grill
- State Treasurer Elect – Jeff Emminger
- State Advocate Elect – Dave Negrete
- State Warden Re-Elect – Mike Lewis

### **Gibault Board of Trustees (3-Year Term)**

- Steve Lutz – Board Chairman
- Jesse Guadiana
- Steve Chatot

We would like to recognize several of the following Knights who stepped up to help out at the Convention:

**Mike Kovacs** who worked on the Registrations and the Credentials for the State Secretary.

**Roger Reuss** who was the man behind the scenes working the A/V at the convention.

**PSD Steve Ziemba** who stepped up to help with the membership portion/speaking at the convention.

**Jim Oates** who did a Great Job as the Parliamentarian!

The Knights who helped our State Treasurer Ryan Grill at the registration tables.

A special note of appreciation goes to **Dawn Spisak** who stepped in as the 1st Lady, **along with her team** of Ladies for organizing and delivering an outstanding program for the ladies in attendance over the weekend.

There are many more who played important roles that are too numerous to list, but each contribution was of great value — **THANK YOU** all for your dedication and service!

Congratulations to all award winners recognized during the weekend. Please watch the State website for a listing of honorees.

**THANK YOU** to all the councils and assemblies that brought their banners to help decorate the hall!

**A Special Thank You to those who sponsored a Seminarian or Priest for the Vocations dinner,** and to those who purchased an advertisement for the convention book to help with the costs. Your generosity is deeply appreciated.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

We currently have reached 72.52% of our State Membership goal for the fiscal year, but with your continued support and action, we can reach—and even surpass—this goal during these next two months. We need **YOU** 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. If every council in the State recruits at least 1 member in each month of May & June, we will achieve our State Membership Goal!!! Make sure to do your part to help your Council and our Order!

**WE NEED YOU** to make the **2025–2026 Fraternal Year** a success—and to help **Indiana achieve the Circle of Honor!** We have only 2 months to reach our State goal! Let's finish **STRONG!**

This isn't just another request. It's a mission. **Your participation is vital.** We are calling on **YOU** to help us **grow the Order** by inviting **Catholic men** to join us—men who want to live out their faith, serve their families and communities, and be part of something that truly matters.

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.

## **IT IS ABOUT THE NUMBERS – AND THE MISSION!**

Let's be clear: **Yes, it IS about the numbers.** But more importantly, it's about what those numbers enable: **more charity, more faith, more impact, and more future Knights to carry the torch!**

Did you or your council invite those new men (RCIA/OCIA) who joined our faith at Easter? Reach out to those men and not only welcome them to our Faith, but also to our Order! Catholic men are waiting. They are waiting to be invited. Just ASK!

**GRADUATIONS** – Did YOU invite a new graduate and give that Catholic man the gift of KNIGHTHOOD!

Take a look around your council. Are you **gaining members** faster than you are **losing them**? If not—ask yourself: **“What will become of our good works if we don't invite others in to continue them?”** What charitable work will your council be able to perform if the members slowly fade away! I have encountered this as State Deputy, where a council's members ages were in the 70's and 80's and the council closed, no longer meeting. They had to sell their council hall and donate the money to the church due to not gaining new members that could carry on the good works the council performed. **WHO is being helped by that council NOW and in the FUTURE? NOBODY!** Continue to Grow with new members so your council doesn't fade away!

**Will you be the one who helps your council grow and thrive, or the one who watches it fade?**

We can't afford to let negativity or complacency win. Every Catholic man deserves the opportunity to be part of the Knights of Columbus. **Are YOU inviting him?**

Let's live our faith out loud. Let's serve. Let's grow.

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 to acknowledge and Thank 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.

---

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

**REMEMBER:**

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!

Let's all be **“Fishers of Men”**—inviting and welcoming others into our brotherhood.

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 (FLA) – It's FREE !!!**

Are you receiving the FLA? We still have many Knights who do not receive the Fraternal Leadership Advisory (FLA). ALL Grand Knights, Financial Secretaries, Council Officers, and District Deputies, elected for the 2025-26 year, need to 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.

## **On Demand Training Is Always Available *(Available Anytime!)***

Visit [kofc.org/training](https://www.kofc.org/training) to locate online training for state, council, district and assembly officers. These training sessions are available on demand, and the average length is only 30 minutes! **Suggested Training by Officer Role** is a great place to get started.

Train at your convenience and strengthen your leadership!

### **Disaster Relief – Tornado / Hurricane / Flood Response**

As we approach Spring and the Tornado season, 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](mailto:disasterresponse@indianakofc.org)  
**To donate**, 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 write "Disaster Response" in the Memo line.

---

### **FORMS: - GET THEM IN NOW!!!**

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

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

**IN-FORM1** is required to be submitted **EVERY Year**, immediately after your council/assembly elections - <https://indianakofc.org/Resources/Forms/Indiana-Council-Forms>

\* Forms not submitted by June 15<sup>th</sup> may not be processed in time to receive the awards. Get your Forms Submitted EARLY – The State Council and Supreme are preparing for the upcoming 2026-27 Fraternal year in June! 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 ([trainer@indianakofc.org](mailto:trainer@indianakofc.org)) or State IT-Admin, Roger Reuss ([itadmin@indianakofc.org](mailto:itadmin@indianakofc.org))!

**\*\* Supreme has Updated their website, so many of your previous links to information and the Supreme Forms may have changed. Check the Supreme site if you are having difficulties with your shortcuts.**

DO NOT send forms in emails as a “Link”, it will NOT be processed. The form being submitted MUST be in PDF format and “Attached” as a file – DO NOT SEND AS A LINK!

**FINANCIAL SECRETARIES** - Immediately after officer elections submit the **Report of Officers Chosen for the Term** (#185) and **Service Program Personnel Report** (#365) using the **Member Management** application. PDF Copies to the State Deputy, District Deputy, and the State Program Director.

**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.

**“We are MEN on a MISSION!” - A Mission from God!**

**Together we can have INDIANA achieve the Circle of Honor!**

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>

**Vivat Jesus and God Bless!**

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



**Knights of  
Columbus®**  
**Indiana  
State Council**

**FAITH IN ACTION – Indiana Knights – First in Faith, First in Charity!**