



The Palmetto State Bulletin



The Newsletter of the South Carolina State Council

Volume 32 Issue 8

March 2021

“St. Joseph, The Just Man”

By Deacon Bob Cox, State Faith/Spiritual Director

Greetings my Brother Knights and families! Praying for you and your families, asking that God keeps you all healthy and that you will be able to attend Holy Week celebrations and Easter Sunday Mass!

March is a busy month filled with birthdays, springtime, holidays, solemnities, springing forward with daylight savings time, St. Patrick’s Day, Solemnity of St. Joseph, The Annunciation of the Lord, Palm Sunday, and Holy Week!

On December 8, 2020, Pope Francis announced to the world a “Year of Saint Joseph,” in honor of the 150th. anniversary of the saint’s proclamation as Patron of the Universal Church. The Pope has brought about this special year so that “every member of the faithful, following his example, can strengthen their life of faith daily in the complete fulfillment of God’s will.”

By making this proclamation, the Pope hopes that all of us will get to know St. Joseph in more detail. Pope Francis says, “Each of us can discover in Joseph—the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence—an intercessor, a support and a guide in times of trouble.”

The Pope goes on to say, “St. Joseph reminds us that those who appear hidden or in the shadows can play an incomparable role in the history of salvation.”

The Pope reflected, in his apostolic letter, on the fatherly attributes of St. Joseph, describing him as beloved, obedient, creatively courageous and accepting as well as tender and loving. The Pope also wants everyone to know that Joseph was a working father, an experienced carpenter.

The Diocese of Charleston’s Father Stan Smolenski, a Baptistine Canonical Hermit and director of the Shrine of Our Lady

of South Carolina, Our Lady and Mother of Joyful Hope in Kingstree, has dedicated much studying and writing about St. Joseph.

Fr. Stan says, “We can understand St. Joseph’s role in today’s society by appreciating the contribution he made to the sacred humanity of Christ, and thus, to the mystery of the Incarnation. Studies show the urgency of the role of the father in the manly growth of boys. There is evidence of serious consequences when that is lacking. So, Joseph’s responsibility was to support Jesus in developing a sound male identity according to natural law. Mary could give Jesus his physical body, but not his manly identity. That had to come through St. Joseph.”

I have a dear Italian friend who would always tell me that for Italians, St. Joseph’s Day was much more important than St. Patrick’s Day, in part because it was also Father’s Day in Italy. For Italians, especially those in Sicily, this is a very revered holiday. Sicilians credit St. Joseph for saving them from a large-scale drought by praying to him for help. They asked him for his intercession and the rains came. Spring crops were spared, and the drought ended.

In conclusion, I hope you and/or your councils are praying the 9 Day Novena to St. Joseph at your respective churches. Because there are two feast days for St. Joseph, one Novena could have been started on March 10th. and the other Novena starts on April 22nd. Pray, pray, pray. As St. Pope John Paul II said, St. Joseph is “The Just Man.”

Viva Cristo Rey, Deacon Bob Cox.

SCHEDULE OF STATE WIDE EVENTS

March 2021

- 6 SC Catholic Men’s Conference - Cardinal Newman School - Columbia, SC
- 14 State Free Throw Championship - Cardinal Newman School, Columbia SC (Tentative)
- 17 St. Patrick’s Day
- 29 Founders Day

April 2021

- 1 Holy Thursday
- 2 Good Friday
- 4 Easter
- 16 - 18 100th Annual State Convention - Virtual
- 23 - 25 Southeastern Lieutenancy EOHSJ Annual Meeting & Investiture - Birmingham, AL

May 2021

- 13 Holy Day of Obligation - Ascension of Jesus
- 15 Grand Knight Bootcamp - St. John Neumann School Gym - Columbia, SC

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From the State Deputy

Daniel Barton

Brother Knights,

I hope this edition of the Palmetto Bulletin finds you and your family well.

Last year at this time, we sent you the message announcing the cancellation of our 99th State Convention in Myrtle Beach. We did not know at that time that Supreme would send other messages that would put a hold on in-person council business meetings for several months. Who would've thought that a year later, we would have to send a message that our 100th Anniversary State Convention would also be held virtually.

Much has already been written about our year with COVID-19 and I am assured that there still remains more to be written about its impacts. Impacts on us as individuals, on our families, on our parishes and in our local communities. For now, I will leave reflections to those already expressed by our Holy Father, our Bishops, and Priests.

That said, today, we must look toward the future instead of focusing on the past. As fraternal leaders, we must be hopeful, pray and rejoice in what is to come. Last weekend we celebrated Laetare Sunday, or "rejoice Sunday". St Paul said, "God, who is rich in mercy, because of the great love he has for us". God so loved us that he sent his only begotten Son to dwell among us. Jesus, by his words, example and by His cross showed us the mercy that God has for each of us. While we are thankful for the sacrifice that Our Lord, Jesus Christ made for our salvation; we must do our part in proclaiming the good news to the world.

So let us rejoice in all things. Yes, this might be difficult at times. However, I am hopeful for the future of the Knights of Columbus in South Carolina. Hopeful, partly because I choose to be but more importantly because I truly believe our finest hour is yet to come. We are in the final stages of this world-wide pandemic. Therefore, we must now prepare to aid our parishes, our fellow Catholic brothers and sisters

From the Vocations Director

Jim Weiskircher, Vocations Director

When doing research on Cardinal Bernardin a few years ago for a scouting event, I discovered that when he was ordained in the diocese in 1952, there were approximately 100 priests in the diocese for 18,000 Catholics. Today, we have 200,000 Catholics with almost the same number of priests. Much of the work in the parishes has been picked up by volunteer deacons that perform an important role in our diocese. As ordained members of the clergy, they have helped with the ministries of the parish.

Have you ever thought of becoming a deacon? If so, these are the steps that you must take to become one:

Requirements for inquirers

1. Meet with your pastor to express your interest in the formation program
2. A letter confirming commitment and financial support will need to be signed by the pastor
3. Once this letter has been received, the inquirer should contact the Diaconate Office to begin the application process.
4. Between the age of 30 and 55 at time of application
5. Actively involved in parish ministry for a minimum of 3 years
6. Catholic for 5 years or more
7. A minimum of a High School diploma or GED
8. In good standing with the church
9. Bishop Guglielmone has set a limit of two applicants per parish (due to financial commitment)
10. If the inquirer (and parish) meets these requirements, it is encouraged that the pastor, priest, or a member of the parish council meets with the inquirer who is interested in formation and then makes a decision as to whether or not this inquirer should apply

Scholastics, formation, and facilities

1. Formation is a 5 ½ year program. This includes a nine month period of discernment as well as academic formation and practicums.
2. Academic formation is done through Saint Leo University. All professors have doctorates in theology.
3. The men in formation meet for class on the Third Saturday & Sunday of every month: Saturdays from 8:30am – 6:30pm (incl. Mass) and Sundays from 8:30am – 1:00pm. [Exception: December (2nd weekend, held in Charleston), and the Summer semester classes are 8:00am – 5:00pm, one Saturday a month (May-Aug)].
4. Classes are held at Our Lady of the Hills Catholic Church, Columbia, SC.



Patriot's Corner

Michael A. Allen, PSD
Master, South Carolina
District, DeSoto Province



“A nation of sheep will beget a government of wolves.”

— Edward R. Murrow

Nowhere in the Laws, Rules and Constitution of the Order does it say not to bring politics into the Knights of Columbus. The rules are clear not to bring partisan politics into the Knights of Columbus.

The rules state:

DO NOT engage in any partisan political activity in the name of the Knights of Columbus. Partisan political activity is defined as including activity that seeks to endorse or oppose a candidate or party in a campaign for public office.

Brothers,

I believe we have not only a responsibility to define the points where the government and the teachings of the church differ, we have a duty to bring those differences to the members of the Assembly. When the COVID-19 relief ACT refuses to allow the Hyde or Helms Amendments to be administered to it, meaning that any stimulus money brought into a state or foreign government can be used for unlimited abortion on demand up to and including partial birth abortions, we must stand up for what is right and what OUR CHURCH teaches. What we cannot do is to suggest that the membership vote for one candidate over another or suggest that one party is favored over another. We can however suggest that one votes his conscience and adheres to the teachings of the Catholic Church in the voting booth. We can urge members to write their government representatives to voice their opinions when the Church and government are at odds.

I believe these differences will be more common and more insidious in the future regardless of who is in control -- it's the nature of the beast. As I have said many times before, if we are not diligent about what's going on, who will be? Bad things happen when good people do nothing.

Please be good citizens, good Catholic citizens, **GOOD AMERICAN CATHOLIC CITIZENS**

Now is the time to rise to the challenge and take the Fourth Degree to the next level.

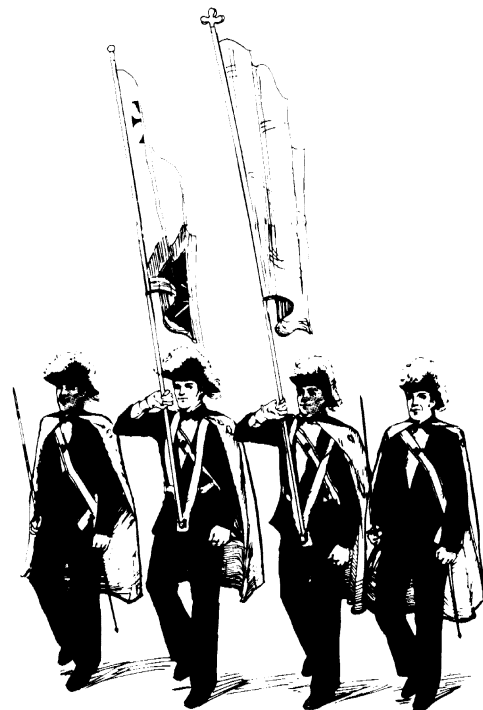
Thank you and God bless you this Year!

Michael A. Allen, PSD, DM

In Memoriam - PSD Bob Ficco

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Past State Deputy, Robert “Bob” Ficco. He served his Country and was a proud Marine Veteran.

He was a lifelong member of the Knights of Columbus where he served in several council positions, as District Deputy, State Officer, and eventually State Deputy (2006-2008). We ask that you keep Bob, and the entire Ficco family in your thoughts and prayers.



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From the State Protocol Chairman

Worthy Grand Knights, Faithful Navigators and Members of the State Council:

DIGNITARIES AT MEETINGS

When Priests, State Officers, District Masters, District Deputies, or special guests are present at a meeting they should be accorded due recognition for the office or position they hold. They should always be seated in a place of honor.

If a Priest, State Officer, District Master, District Deputy, or special guest should arrive while a meeting is in progress; the presiding officer raps the gavel three times for all to stand and instructs the Warden to escort the guest to the station of the presiding officer. The presiding officer then offers a seat of honor to the guest.

However, a State Officer, Vice Supreme Master or District Master or District Deputy, when present at his home council or assembly, need not be specifically recognized unless he has been invited to attend in his official capacity or requests to be so recognized. This will allow the officer to engage in the regular business of his home council or assembly without involving the position he holds.

When a General Agent or Field Agent is present at a meeting, he should be treated as a guest. He should be seated and introduced with the dignitaries.

Ronald G. Povero, PSD, FM, Protocol Chairman

Vocations continued from page 2

5. We encourage the men in formation to shadow their pastors and priests in various ministerial duties (e.g. hospital visits, funerals, wakes, baptisms, weddings, etc)
6. We encourage wives of the men in formation to attend classes at any time, but Bishop Guglielmone wishes that the wives attend at least four of the ten classes per year
7. If a man in formation needs to take a leave of absence, he will be invited to rejoin formation with Saint Leo where they left off, with a different formation class.
8. At the end of the school year, Deacon Andre sends each pastor the grades for his respective candidate(s)
9. Tuition
10. The tuition for each man in formation is paid in three parts
11. 1/3 is paid by the diocese
12. 1/3 by the parish
13. 1/3 by the man in formation
14. Saint Leo limits 25 cohorts per class, however, if space is available we invite wives to also pursue a Master's Degree along with their husband. Wives who

choose to take classes for a degree will be responsible for paying full tuition, with a 10% Diocese discount (Currently \$3100.00 per year).

Cost

For 2020/2021: Candidates tuition for the year is as follows: Full tuition for the Master's Program will be \$1400.00 per year. Full tuition for the Undergraduate Program will be \$950.00 per year. Payment is due upon receipt, or payments can be made following the below schedule:

Payment Due Date	Undergraduate	Graduate	Spouse
9/10/2020	\$325.00	\$500.00	\$1050.00
1/10/2021	\$325.00	\$450.00	\$1050.00
4/30/2021	\$300.00	\$450.00	\$1000.00

Ongoing Evaluations

1. A yearly evaluation will be conducted by each candidate's pastor, Deacon Andre Guillet, and members of the Diaconate Board
2. This evaluation will decide whether or not they will continue, or be guided into a year of discernment
3. Grades, participation, and involvement in their parish will be the determining factors for the evaluation

State Deputy continued from page 2

as well as those in our local community.

This past week, Supreme revised the guidelines for the Star Council award making it achievable for every council. Yes, even for those councils who have not yet recruited a member. You might ask how this is possible and I would point to Council 8295 in Anderson, SC. The council held a membership drive over Laetare Sunday and brought in 15 new members through online membership. These men are currently in the process of becoming new council members.

My brothers, it just takes each one of us, as fraternal leaders, to believe in ourselves, our principles of Charity, Unity and Fraternity and then invite others to become a Knight of Columbus. The question we must answer is will we do our part? Additionally, this year the State Council has a good chance of achieving the Circle of Honor. How fitting would it be to achieve this distinction during our 100th Anniversary as well as during the unique challenges we have faced this past year.

In closing, since last March, we have reacted positively as issues arose. I know that the South Carolina State Council will continue to show that we can adapt to anything else that may come our way. As always, if your District Deputy or State Officers can be of any assistance please let us know.

Fraternally Yours, Daniel

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District 12 (5194, 8123, 8790, 10867).....	Frank E. Love	843-665-2265
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District 15 (12366, 14475, 14765).....	J. David Walters.....	803-372-8895
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Insurance Promotion Chairman	Robert Boni, GA	843-824-5632
Athletic Events Chairman/.....	Eric Cannon	803-479-5905
Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest	Bob Poyer	843-571-5941
Free Throw Chairman/Soccer Challenge Chairman	Eric Cannon	803-479-5905
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