



The Palmetto State Bulletin



The Newsletter of the South Carolina State Council

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THE HUNGER FOR GOD ON THE FRONT LINE

11/1/2016

by Jerri Donohue

WITH THE NEED FOR CATHOLIC MILITARY CHAPLAINS AT AN ALL-TIME HIGH, THE ORDER CONTINUES SUPPORT FOR VOCATIONS

Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio of the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA, administers the sacrament of confirmation to service members at Camp Leatherneck, Helmand province, Afghanistan, April 19, 2014. Photo courtesy of Father Luke Dundon

In 2005, a small U.S. Army convoy from the 18th Airborne Corps left its remote base in northern Iraq on a special mission through combat territory. The young soldiers, who had gone without Mass for months, had decided that it was worth the risk of roadside bombs and enemy ambush to reach their objective: a base near Mosul, where they knew they would find a Catholic priest.

Father Paul K. Hurley, then a lieutenant colonel in the Army's 101st Airborne Corps, agreed to make the dangerous journey to their base in order to hear their confessions and celebrate Mass.

"These young soldiers' hungry desire for God and holy Communion was stronger than their fear of the dangers they faced," Father Hurley later recalled in an article he wrote for The Pilot, the newspaper of the Archdiocese of Boston. "I have never encountered such profound and genuine thankfulness for the gift of the Eucharist – in combat zones or at home in the U.S. These experiences crystallize how important it is for our soldiers to have access to a priest and

to the sacraments."

Recognizing the crucial need for Catholic military chaplains, the Knights of Columbus launched a special initiative five years ago – the Father Mc-Givney Military Chaplain Scholarship program – in support of the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA (AMS). To date, \$1.2 million in support has been provided to assist seminarians preparing to become Catholic chaplains in the U.S. armed forces.

STEADFAST SUPPORT

The idea for the Father McGivney Chaplain Scholarship program began during Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson's 2011 visit aboard the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower. While touring the aircraft carrier, the supreme knight encountered Catholics in uniform who often go weeks – and sometimes months – without being able to attend Mass or receive spiritual guidance due to the dire shortage of priest chaplains.

When announcing the scholarship initiative, the supreme knight noted, "It can be very difficult for Catholic members of the armed forces when they're on forward deployments. The U.S. military archdiocese, which supplies Catholic chaplains, estimates that it needs 800 priests to fully serve all of

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SCHEDULE OF STATE WIDE EVENTS

November 2016

- 1 All Saints Day
- 12 3rd Degree 6847 N.E. Columbia (DD 12) - North East Columbia 6847

December 2016

- 2-4 DDs Winter Meeting, Westin Resort Hilton Head
- 8 Feast of the Immaculate Conception
- 10 State Soccer Shootout, Seven Oaks Park, Irmo
- 25 Christmas

January 2017

- 1 Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
- 6 Epiphany
- 13 Proudly Pro-Life Dinner - Seawell's 1125 Rosewood Dr, Columbia, SC 29201
- 14 Columbia, Proudly Pro-Life Rally - State Capitol
- 21 3rd Degree 12263 Bluffton (DD 1) - Bluffton 12263
- 27 National Pro-Life March - Washington, DC

February 2017

- 3 - 5 *Mid Winter meeting & State Charity Ball - Columbia, SC
- 11 State Charity meeting - Seven Oaks Park Irmo, SC

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From the State Deputy

Michael A. Allen

Brother Knights,

To paraphrase the American theologian and preacher Russel D. Moore.....

"Americans don't need government support for our faith, because we believe God created all consciences free and a state-coerced act of worship isn't acceptable to God. Moreover, we believe the gospel isn't in need of state endorsement or assistance. Wall Street may need government bailouts but the Damascus Road never does."

By the time you read this, you will know who the next President of the United States will be. Whoever it is, they will need much prayer from the Knights of Columbus. Fortunately the Knights have a plan to help out. The Novena to Mary Immaculate is a great way to start. Please go to the Supreme web site KofC.org and download the prayer for America and have your Domestic Church say it every day to support the next President. Make it a monthly habit to say the novena for nine straight days and let's see the good changes in the Country.

The State Council is working hard to put together the Mid-winter meeting to be held in Columbia on February 4th 2017. The Grand Knights can expect a letter about the nominating committee procedure and encouraging them and all third degree Knights to take an active part in their State proceedings. Remember that the State Council does what it does for you, so you can be all you are called by God to be.

For now, have a safe and Happy Thanksgiving, give your family our love, and don't forget to Pray, Pray, Pray.

From the Vocations Director

James P. Weiskircher, Vocations Director

Annually the Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations Committee of the USCCB presents its report to the Bishop at their meeting. This goes into depth on issues that are not a part of the CARA study. This report is given to help the Bishops to understand trends for the seminarians. In the 2015-16 school year, 1,353 were enrolled in college seminaries, down from a high 5 years ago of 1,460. Theology enrollment was 3,520, down from a high 5 years ago of 3,723. There were 732 enrolled in Pre-Theology. Retention rates for the four years of Theology are that 74% are ordained with 26% dropping out. The retention rate for the four years in college is 65%. The rate is approximately 50% of those that start as a freshman in college are ordained.

The rectors of the college seminaries were asked their opinion on how prepared the seminarians were in seven aspects before entering the seminary. About two-thirds reported that the seminarians were "somewhat" or "very" well prepared in their interpersonal skills (68 percent) and their conversation skills (68 percent). Six in ten college seminary rectors report that their seminarians were at least "somewhat" prepared in self-acceptance and confidence (60 percent) and communication skills (60 percent) at the time they entered the seminary. One-half of the rectors said their seminarians were at least "somewhat" prepared in sound prudential judgment (52 percent). About three in four college seminary rectors report that their seminarians were "only a little" or "not at all" prepared in leading prayer (72 percent) and public speaking (80 percent). The college-level rectors report that their seminaries offer from none to six courses devoted to public speaking. Most commonly, college seminaries offer one course in public speaking. Just over a third offer two courses in public speaking and one seminary offers six courses in public speaking. Four in ten college rectors report ten or fewer hours given to public speaking practica each semester. A little more than one in ten report 11 to 20 hours each semester for practica in public speaking. An equal proportion (43 percent) reports devoting more than 20 hours per semester and ten or fewer hours per semester (43 percent) to public speaking practica. The rectors of the theologates were asked their opinion about how prepared their seminarians were in seven aspects before entering the theologate. About nine in ten report that their seminarians were "somewhat" or "very" well prepared in their conversation skills (92 percent) and their interpersonal skills (87 percent). More than three-quarters say they were prepared in sound prudential judgment (79 percent) and self-acceptance and confidence (76 percent). Two-thirds say they were prepared in their communication skills (66 percent).

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Patriot's Corner

Tom Monahan, PSD
 Master, South Carolina District
 DeSoto Province



It is time to unite – in prayer.

The elections are over. We now have our new president. Whomever you voted for, it is time to unite and support him. There is much healing that needs to be done. There is no one man that can solve all our nation's problems. No one can be sure what the future holds. There are many decisions that will be made which will have far reaching impact to our fellowman. This will require wisdom, understanding, knowledge and fortitude to accomplish change while showing respect for all people.

There is someone who must be included in this nations process, if this country's future is to be a success. We, as Catholic Knights must turn to Christ with prayer. To leave God out of the solution and to depend solely on the people we have elected is ludicrous. The gifts of the Holy Spirit are Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Fortitude, Knowledge, Piety, and Awe of the Lord, (Baltimore Catechism #125, and Catechism of the Catholic Church #1831.) Can anyone think of anything our leaders need more than the gifts of the Holy Spirit? This Thanksgiving, pray for our country and our leaders. As each Assembly says their closing prayers, I ask that you pray for our leaders and that "God's will be done."

Please note that the next Patriotic Degree Exemplification is scheduled February 18, 2017, in Columbia, SC. Information has been sent to your Faithful Navigator.

Let us pray for our country:
 Holy Family, pray for us.
 Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of the Americas and the unborn, pray for us.
 St. Joseph, patron saint of the Universal Church, pray for us.





Knights of Columbus
FOURTH DEGREE
Patriotic degree of the Order.

Exemplification

February 17-19, 2017

Marriott Columbia Downtown
 1200 Hampton Street,
 Columbia, SC
 Reservation (803-593-6465) by 2/1/17

Candidate and Banquet
 Reservations by 2/5/17

"Sir Knight" is more than a title — it's an honor!



South Carolina Catholic
 Men's Conference

Building the Domestic Church

March 4, 2017

**Prince of Peace Church
 1209 Brushy Creek Road
 Taylors, SC**

International and National speakers
 Steve Ray
 Dr. Bill Thierfelder
 Fr. Jeffrey Kirby
 Fr. Renaud West



From the State Ceremonials/ Protocol Chairman

Ronald G. Povero, PSD, FM

Worthy Grand Knights and Members of the State Council: We still have several Councils that have not held a degree this fraternal year. With changes to the Admission and Formation Degrees they need to become active and hold degrees to become proficient in them. If you need help your District Deputy and State staff are ready to help.

For a Council or District to receive credit for a degree held the District Deputy must submit a Form 450 to Supreme, State Deputy and the Ceremonial Chairman. Be sure the Degree held is clearly marked on the form along with location held and date the degree was conducted. Until this form is received by the Ceremonial Chairman, the status record will not change in the report. Any Form 450's received after the 9th of each month will not be recorded until the next month's newsletter. The attached reports show the status of each council for Admission Degrees and the District Formation Degrees for 2016 - 2017.

PROTOCOL

Meetings

Start meetings on time and keep them to no longer than 1 hour in length. All discussion should be completed at the officers meeting; this will keep unnecessary discussion at the regular business meetings to a minimum. If a degree is being held with a meeting, complete it prior to the start of the meeting. Be sure that all visiting VIP's are introduced and given a chance to address the group. Be sure new or transferred members are introduced and welcomed to the Council. Do not leave them alone after the meeting, make them feel welcome.

Admissions Degree Standings

DISTRICT	COUNCIL	CITY	GOAL	ACTUAL	% of GOAL
Roy Spurlock, Jr.	DD #1		21	0	0%
	5026	BEAUFORT	5	0	0%
	7289	HILTON HEAD	4	0	0%
	10668	HILTON HEAD	6	0	0%
	12263	BLUFFTON	6	0	0%
Anthony Zamarrelli	DD #2		19	7	36.8
	2207	SUMTER	5	3	60.0%
	6847	N.E. COLUMBIA	6	2	33.3%
	9672	CAMDEN	4	0	0%
	13713	BLYTHEWOOD	4	2	50.0%
Joseph Dumovich	DD #3		20	5	25.0%
	5086	MYRTLE BEACH	5	0	0%
	7122	N. MYRTLE BEACH	6	2	33.3%
	7531	CONWAY	5	1	20.0%
	14892	LORIS	4	2	50.0%
Sherrill Wilcox	DD #4		14	0	0%
	3684	AIKEN	6	0	0%
	7062	N. AUGUSTA	4	0	0%
	9161	BARNWELL	4	0	0%

DISTRICT	COUNCIL	CITY	GOAL	ACTUAL	% of GOAL
Roy Massey, Jr.	DD #5		19	3	15.8%
	6629	SUMMERVILLE	6	0	100.0%
	8502	WALTERBORO	4	0	0%
	8900	N. CHARLESTON	4	1	25.0%
	11910	SUMMERVILLE	5	2	40.0%
Bob Brohm	DD #6		18	3	16.7%
	6884	SENECA	6	0	0%
	8182	MAULDIN	4	0	0%
	8295	ANDERSON	4	2	50.0%
	9576	PICKENS	4	1	25.0%
Skip Hudson	DD #7		18	1	5.6%
	724	COLUMBIA	6	0	0%
	6891	ORANGEBURG	4	0	0%
	12554	COLUMBIA	4	1	25.0%
Bill Larkin	DD #8		20	8	40.0%
	1668	GREENVILLE	5	4	80.0%
	9184	TAYLORS	5	1	20.0%
	10819	SIMPSONVILLE	6	3	50.0%
	12274	GREER	4	0	0%
	13112	GREENVILLE	4	0	0%
	*15519	GREER	4	0	0%
Edmund McDowell	DD #9		24	3	12.5%
	704	CHARLESTON	6	0	0%
	6250	JAMES ISLAND	4	1	25.0%
	9475	MT. PLEASANT	6	1	16.7%
	10334	CHARLESTON	4	0	0%
	12472	CHARLESTON	4	1	25.0%
Ray Howard	DD #10		17	2	11.8%
	6756	ROCK HILL	5	0	0%
	10066	LANCASTER	4	0	0%
	12268	YORK	4	2	50.0%
	* 15611	ROCK HILL	4	0	0%
Dennis Laczko	DD #11		15	3	20.0%
	3067	GEORGETOWN	4	0	0%
	8980	GARDEN CITY	6	1	16.7%
	11028	PAWLEYS ISL	5	2	40.0%
Frank Love	DD #12		21	0	0%
	5194	FLORENCE	5	0	0%
	8123	HARTSVILLE	4	0	0%
	8790	MARION DILLON	4	0	0%
	10867	CHERAW	4	0	0%
	15223	MANNING/SANTEE	4	0	0%
Pat Davis	DD #13		19	4	21.1%
	6726	HANAHAN/GC	4	2	50.0%
	6900	CITADEL	5	0	0%
	11471	MONCK'S CORNER	4	0	0%
	11991	GOOSE CREEK	6	2	33.3%
William Weiss, Jr.	DD #14		15	3	13.0%
	6076	SPARTANBURG	5	0	0%
	9575	SPARTANBURG	6	2	33.3%
	12995	GAFFNEY	4	1	25.0%
Theron Simpson	DD #15		13	5	38.5%
	12366	FORT MILL	5	2	40.0%
	14475	LAKE WYLIE	4	3	75.0%
	14765	INDIAN LAND	4	0	0%
Mike Mancari	DD #16		17	7	41.2%
	6892	IRMO	5	3	60.0%
	7129	GREENWOOD	4	2	50.0%
	11325	LEXINGTON	4	1	25.0%
	* 15960	* NEWBERRY (NJL)	4	1	25.0%
TOTAL			294	54	18.4%

First Degree Standings Notes

Goal for FY 15-16

Degrees Per Council

Div I - 1-150 - 4

Div II - 151-225 - 5

Div III - 226 & Above - 6

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More than six in ten rectors report that the seminarians were “only a little” or “not at all” prepared in leading prayer (63 percent) and public speaking (63 percent) at the time they entered the seminary.

This is an important tool in helping the Bishops to tailor the courses in the seminary to give new priests the tools that they need to be effective. It is important for us as Knights to keep them in our prayers.

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the Catholic men and women in uniform today, but they are only able to supply 280.”

In 2011, Fourth Degree assemblies spearheaded nationwide fundraising efforts for the Father McGivney Military Chaplain Scholarship program, and in just three years they fulfilled the Knights’ five-year goal of raising \$1 million for the AMS. Since then, the Order has extended the program, with the Fourth Degree committed to increasing the total to \$1.4 million by the end of this fraternal year.

These funds enable the AMS to pay its share of expenses for seminarians in its Co-Sponsored Seminarian Program, a vocations partnership between the AMS and cooperating dioceses and religious communities around the country. During his priestly formation, a co-sponsored seminarian’s diocese covers half of his costs, and the military archdiocese assumes the remaining half. Once ordained, candidates work as diocesan priests for three years before serving as active duty chaplains for five years or longer.

Without the Order’s scholarships, it would be daunting for the AMS to provide its portion for each co-sponsored seminarian – between \$15,000 and \$18,000 a year, depending on the seminary.

The Knights’ support could not have come at a more crucial time, according to Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio of the Archdiocese for the Military Services.

“We are down to 207 active duty chaplains serving all three chaplain corps, which serve the five branches of the armed forces,” he said. “It is a very drastic situation.”

While Catholics account for 25 percent of the U.S. military, Catholic priests make up only 8 percent of the chaplain corps. With a ratio of 1,300 Catholics on active duty to each Catholic chaplain, the shortage of priests means that enlisted Catholics can go long periods without access to the sacraments.

“The Father McGivney Scholarship Program is probably the greatest source of hope that the Archdiocese for the Military Services has,” said Archbishop Broglio, a member of Potomac Council 433 in Washington, D.C. “At this point, there are some 35 co-sponsored seminarians in 19 seminaries across the United States and in Rome studying for eventual military service.”

U.S. Army Chap. (Maj. Gen.) Paul K. Hurley, U.S. Army chief of chaplains, gives remarks on Chaplains Hill in Arlington National Cemetery July 29. The ceremony honored the 241st anniversary of the U.S. Army Chaplain Corps. U.S. Army photo by Rachel Larue

A VOCATION WITHIN A VOCATION

Cistercian Father Aidan Logan, a former Navy chaplain who served from 1991 to 2010 on ships and at Navy and Marine Corps bases across the globe, watched as chaplain numbers dwindled over the years. In 1991, he was one of 13 military priests covering Camp Lejeune, two air stations and a hospital in North Carolina. When he returned in 2010, he and only one other priest served the same area.

Father Logan, who joined the Knights in 2002 as a charter member and chaplain of Father Aloysius H. Schmitt Council 13220 at Camp Lejeune, N.C., was appointed AMS vocations director in 2014. He is encouraged by the increased number of co-sponsored seminarians today, with 13 priestly ordinations since 2014, compared to eight between 2008 and 2013. In addition to organizing vocations retreats and visiting seminarians, Father Logan also works with recruiters in the chaplain’s office of each service branch and attends various vocations events and conferences presented by organizations like the Fellowship of Catholic University Students.

“There are many young men in college who are attracted to both the military and the priesthood,” he said. “They feel they have to choose between the two. But they don’t.”

Father Logan explained that the military chaplaincy is “a true vocation within a vocation” and further noted, “Military families and military men account for the largest single factor in vocations each year.”

Father Luke Dundon, for example, grew up in a naval family and discerned a priestly vocation after graduation from the Naval Academy and several years of military service. He attended Mount St. Mary’s Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md., as a co-sponsored seminarian and was ordained in 2011 for the Diocese of Arlington.

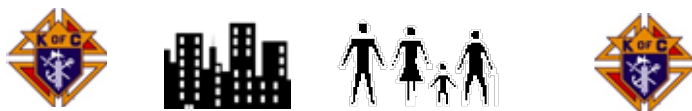
A member of Father Robert E. Nudd Council 7369 in Centreville, Va., Father Dundon has served aboard the USS Bonhomme Richard for the last two years. Sailing out of Sasebo, Japan, the amphibious assault ship sometimes carries as many as 3,000 sailors and Marines.

In addition to celebrating Mass, hearing confessions and teaching RCIA and Bible study classes, Father Dundon provides counseling and helps arrange onshore service projects. His unique working environment also allows him to move throughout the ship, chatting and distributing snacks.

“There’s a beautiful opportunity that would rarely occur in parish life – to mingle with someone who hasn’t been to church in a long time, or who hasn’t practiced their faith in

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Community Involvement Initiative



Community service is a non - paying activity that is performed by someone or a group of people for the benefit of the public or its institutions. Community service takes commitment, dedication and pride in wanting to benefit that community.

As Knights of Columbus we need to be involved in the six Service programs of which Community is one of them. When the Council is active in Community service they can hold their head high and be proud.

A prime example of a sound Community Service Program is that of St. Michael Council 8980 - Help for Kids, Backpack Buddies program.

A teacher noticed that on Monday mornings a particularly delightful kindergarten student whose initially sunny disposition was always cranky and his grades started to suffer. He qualified for subsidized school breakfasts and lunches during the week but went hungry most evenings, and much of the weekends. After investigation, it was determined that child was simply hungry. If a child is hungry, it's hard to focus on anything else. Something had to be done.

In our local community, a woman by the name of Barbara Mains saw the poverty level that many children lived in. Fathers abandoned their children, families lost their jobs and poverty prospered. Our children in the Community must be fed.

Volunteers pack nonperishable food items such as juice boxes, fruit cups, soup and canned vegetables and are bagged and ready for delivery.

In April 2013 along came Council member John A. Fry. He started to volunteer with Mrs. Mains and a plan was put together to assist those hungry children. Council 8980 was asked to support this program by collecting food items, cash and delivery of food packs to supporting schools.

This enabled the Council the opportunity to aid, assist and serve the Children of Horry County. This program has expanded over the years. Today every Wednesday and Thursday four large vans deliver food items by the volunteers of St. Michael Council to many of the County schools. The food packs are given to the needy children on Friday and placed in their backpacks so that they can have food over the weekend. Over three thousand food packs are delivered each week.

As a volunteer and member of the Knight of Columbus I am proud of the accomplishments of this Community program. I encourage all Councils in the State to evaluate their Com-

munity Council programs. It is our responsibility to insure that we continue to promote a healthy and active Community initiative within the Council.

It would be a pleasure if I can assist any Grand Knight or Program Director in an effort to enhance their Councils Community effort. I can be reached at the following:

Phone: 843-215-7033

E-Mail: cushinganchorage@aol.com

Gilbert T. Cushing – Community Director, State Council



This makes a difference
For I was Hungry and you gave me food...

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a long time.”

Father Dundon cited an officer who rejected Catholicism many years ago. During dinners, the man candidly aired his grievances with the Church – and Father Dundon assured him he was welcome to return.

“Over time, he recognized and rediscovered a peace that came only from following Christ again,” Father Dundon said. “It’s a beautiful sight, especially since younger sailors see him as one of the saltiest and earthiest individuals on the ship.”

‘TOTAL FORCE MULTIPLIERS’

According to Father Hurley, now a major general serving as chief of chaplains for the U.S. Army, military chaplains have been an integral part of the U.S. armed forces from the very beginning.

“George Washington was the first to articulate that our armed forces need clergy to provide worship services and help with morale, ethical development and counseling,” said Father Hurley, who is a member of Richard Cardinal Cushing Council 6267 in Pembroke, Mass. “If they are not spiritually nourished and cared for, military personnel and their families are going to be impacted, and this in turn will impact how they perform their jobs.”

Maj. Gen. Michael Regner, who retired from the U.S. Marine Corps earlier this year, insists it is essential that service men and women have access to a chaplain.

“Chaplains are priceless in their support to the overall needs of

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Formation Degree Standings - 2015-2016

POC: RONALD G. POVERO, PSD, State Ceremonials Chairman

DISTRICT	DISTRICT DEPUTY	TEAM CAPTAIN	TEAM NAME (Dist Served By Team)	GOAL	ACTUAL	% GOAL	PROJ DEGREES
1	Roy Spurlock, Jr.	Richard Bachner, FDD	Low Country Team (1)	4	0	0%	4
2	Anthony Zammerelli	Ralph Rossoni	Capital City Team (2, 7, 12 & 16)	6	0	0%	6
3	Joseph Dumovich	C Van Demnark, FDD	Grand Strand Team (3 & 11)	4	1	25.0%	3
4	Sherrill (Ed) Wilcox	Bill Collins, PGK	Aiken Team (4)	4	0	0%	4
5	Roy Massey, Jr.	David R. Griffard, FDD	Flowertown Team (5)	4	0	0%	4
8	Bill Larkin	Ron Stanley, FDD	Greater Greenville Area Team (6, 8 & 14)	6	2	33.3%	4
9	Edmund McDowell	Daniel E. Barton, ST	Greater Charleston Area Team (9)	4	0	0%	4
10	Ray Howard	Geary Bradley	Up State Team (10 & 15)	5	1	20%	4
13	Pat Davis	Pat Davis, DD	Creekside Team (13)	4	1	25%	3
16	Mike Mancari	Crosby Livingston, Sr.	Fr. Frederick H. Suggs Team (16)	4	0	0%	4
		TOTAL		45	5	11.1	

KNIGHTHOOD DEGREE SCHEDULE FOR 2016 – 2017

June 4, 2016	Taylor's Council 9184
June 18, 2016	Pawley's Island Council 11028
August 13, 2016	Hanahan/Goose Creek Council 6726
August 20, 2016	Florence Council 5194
Sept 10, 2016	Seneca Council 6884
Sept 24, 2016	Conway Council 7531
November 19, 2016	NE Columbia Council 6847
January 21, 2017	Bluffton Council 12263
February 18, 2017	Pawley's Island Council 11028
March 25, 2017	Rock Hill Council 6756
April 8, 2017	Summerville Council 11910
May 6, 2017	Irmo Council 6892

All Knighthood Degrees will start at 12:30. Watch for dates on projected degrees as they are received by the State council. If you think your Council can hold a Third Degree without conflicting with degrees scheduled in your area, contact the Ceremonial Chairman. If you would like a copy of the requirements to hold a Knighthood Degree, email me and I will send you a copy.

Ronald G. Povero, PSD, FM
South Carolina Ceremonial Chairman

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the military community, service members and their families,” said Regner, a member of St. Rita of Cascia Council 15244 in Alexandria, Va.

He sees chaplains as “total force multipliers” – factors that dramatically increase the effectiveness of a unit by providing courage, counsel and assistance.

As a colonel, Regner was a Marine expeditionary unit commander and routinely took a Catholic chaplain wherever he went. During deployments in Afghanistan and Iraq, a priest accompanied Regner when he visited men on the battlefield. “Some folks wanted Mass and confession,” Regner said. “Some folks that were spiritually or psychologically challenged needed his strength, his encouragement. He provided that.”

In one case, a Marine was worried about his wife and children, whom he could not contact from a combat zone. The priest chaplain was able to communicate with a chaplain back in the United States and reassure the young man that all was well at home.

According to Gen. Regner, military personnel and their families cherish their chaplains because of such ministry and see it as essential.

“Here’s the bottom line,” he said. “Everyone wants that special person who encourages, listens and assists every member of a unit in reaching their full potential when times are easy or tough – chaplains do exactly that.”

Archbishop Broglio could not agree more.

“When you speak with these young men, you become infected with their enthusiasm, their deep faith and their desire to share that faith with others,” he said.

And despite the uphill battle in fostering vocations, the archbishop pointed to the Father McGivney scholarship program as a decisive factor in closing the gap.

“The Father McGivney military scholarship reflects the forward thinking of the supreme knight and his collaborators,” Archbishop Broglio said. “It’s really a great source of hope.”

JERRI DONOHUE is a freelance journalist whose husband,

'ENSURE THAT SUCH GENOCIDE NEVER AGAIN OCCURS'

10/21/2016

SUPREME KNIGHT ISSUES STATEMENT ON LIBERATION OF TOWNS IN IRAQ’S NINEVEH PLAIN

“While welcoming the ongoing liberation of the Nineveh plain and Mosul, we must not forget that the genocide begun



by ISIS will continue through attrition and neglect unless the United States and international community prioritize those groups that were targeted for extermination and risk disappearing altogether. This must include direct financial support from our government that actually reaches endangered groups like Christians and Yazidis. Those Iraqi citizens who belong to these groups also need to be given equal rights based on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. We must also insist that the two-tiered system of rights - resulting in the second class citizenship of Christians and other non-majority religious groups - end if we really want to ensure that such genocide never again occurs in this region. Celebrations over the ongoing liberation of the historically Christian towns of the Nineveh should not obscure the fact those minority groups who lived there for generations are now displaced and in danger of disappearing.”

The Knights of Columbus, the world’s largest Catholic fraternal group, has raised more than \$11 million for humanitarian relief for Christian refugees, with a focus on Iraq and Syria. The Knights also worked with In Defense of Christians to present a nearly 300-page report to the U.S. State Department documenting the genocide occurring against Christians at the hands of ISIS and related groups. That document, delivered by Secretary of State John Kerry on March 17, was presented to the U.S. State Department and has been widely credited for being instrumental in securing the U.S. government’s genocide designation.

Donations can be made to the Knights' efforts at ChristiansatRisk.org.



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YOUR SHIELD FOR LIFE

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