

# FrontLine Focus

The State Deputy Newsletter

VOL. 21 • No. 2

December/January 2011-2012



TEXAS  
STATE COUNCIL  
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS



## IN THIS ISSUE

- State Deputy Message Page 1
- The First Principle----- Page 2
- Membership----- Page 3
- Membership Standings Page 4
- Charities ----- Page 5
- Aid to Education ----- Page 5
- Get Free \$\$\$ ----- Page 6
- Infirm Priests ----- Page 6
- Special Olympics ----- Page 7
- Charity Standings ----- Page 8



By Tony Herreth  
State Deputy

## “One More!”

As I attended the first Sunday Mass of Advent with its beautiful rich purple vestments, I reflected on the joyful coming celebration of Christ's birth and all that this wonderful season of our Church's renewal brings. I was reminded of my renewal at this mid-point in our fraternal year. It is a time to celebrate, a time to review, a time to begin anew. A time to ask the question, “What have I done, what more can I do, what more needs to be done, how can I help?”

I look at my Brother Knights in Texas and am so proud and thankful to be a part of this great Order, a part of an organization that is truly doing God's work on earth. I have used the theme “A Passion to Serve” for my administration not for me but for my admiration and love of my Brother Knights in Texas and their accomplishments and deeds. Marty and I have seen first hand the terrible financial and emotional losses that so many of our brothers and sisters in Christ have endured this past year. We have witnessed the miracle of prayer, generosity and love our brothers have shared with each other. I have watched the myriad of fundraisers for charity, scholarships, special Olympics, church projects, large and small selfless acts of devotion and support for our Bishops, clergy, brothers and sisters.

I again ask myself “What can I do? How can I help?” I'm just one guy, does what I do really matter? Then I look at our Bishops, clergy, brother knights and the answer is clear.....it's not one hand, one donation, one new member, one fundraiser, one scholarship, one act of charity, It's One More! It's asking one more Catholic man to join, it's donating one more time, it's giving a little bit more of our time, it's one more act of charity or kindness. It's one more reminder that Charity is the first principle of our Order. Christ gave us but one commandment... “I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another.” {Jn 13-34}. It's that simple renewal and celebration of that commitment to recruit one more member, to support the Texas State Council Charities, to follow Father McGivney's dream to create and be a part of a Catholic fraternity that has “The Passion to Serve.” I ask you simply as part of our renewal for you to join us all in “One More!”

Marty and I wish you, my Brother Knights and families the most Joyous Advent, Christmas and New Year.

Tony & Marty Herreth  
State Deputy



# The First Principle!

Alfredo Vela  
State Charity Director

Five months are practically already gone. Compared to last year, we are still on pace. As of October 30th, you are right on pace with last year's numbers. Let us all remember that the higher the contributions, the more our Bishops will get. So, we cannot stop now.

The following is some of the data in regards to Texas State Charities based on updated November data. You have contributed over \$355,000 which translates to about 40% of our goal. Some councils have been very active with Texas State Charities. So far, there have been close to 200 councils that have achieved Quick Start status and out of those 200 councils, one has already contributed over 300% of their goal. We want to send a very big thank you, to Council 10224 from Industry for being at 300% in charity contributions.

In addition, there are six District Deputies who have already met their contribution goals. We also want to send

a special thank you to DD 5, Bill White from the El Paso Diocese; DD 22, Sean Stenovitch from the Fort Worth Diocese; DD 64, Bill Eckert from the Archdiocese of Galveston/Houston; DD 93, Charles Trahan from the Beaumont Diocese; DD 116, Ken Driska; and DD 127, John Massey from the Austin Diocese. Good job, Brothers. In addition, there are numerous District Deputies that are so very close to meeting their goals. A job well done.

Please help promote the Infirm Priest Program. All the monies collected from the license plates will be divided among the 15 dioceses. As of October, we have over 1150 license plates on Texas roads. Remember, that for every license plate, we get \$22 to help our Dioceses with our Infirm Priests. Please help us promote the license plates which in turn will help the Dioceses with their infirm priests.

There is always some type of Special Olympics event happening in the area. If you know of an event, please show up and help out. You will be glad you did. In addition, please start promoting Form 4584. This form is due at the Supreme Council on January 31st, 2012. It is never too early to start mentioning this to your councils. The more

Form 4584's that are submitted, the better it is and the more money we can tap into.

Finally, you might also want to start promoting the Education Grant Program to your councils. There is one educational grant given out per Diocese. Let's make sure we get as many applicants as we can. The application deadline is March 1st, 2012 and the form can be found on the State Website.

For more information on any of our programs, please read the information provided by our committee chairman elsewhere on this bulletin.

I truly hope you are on your way to meeting all your goals. If you need any help please feel free to call me or any of the Charity Team Chairmen. They are there to help. Thanks for all you do and God Bless you all.

## Texas State Charities

Individual donations of \$20 or higher will be recognized with a State Charities Lapel Pin. Thank you for your generosity assisting the Texas State Charities Program as well as supporting our Bishop selected Diocesan charities. Please include your pledge or contribution.

**Make Check Payable to Texas State Council Charities**  
**Mail To: Knights of Columbus**  
**6633 Highway 290 East Suite 204**  
**Austin, TX 78723-1157**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Council # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Contribution      \$20       \$50       \$100       Other

Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you for your generosity - State Officers and State Charities Team**



# New First Degree Star Council Requirement Remains Confusing for Some

By Bobb Mahrer  
State Membership Director

Since the news arrived in Texas late in June 2011 from Supreme Vice President Gary Nolan (he is the Supreme Director for Membership Growth and Ceremonials), there has been confusion over the new “First Degree” recruitment requirement that has been added to the Star Council Award criteria. To this day, I am continue to receive questions from Diocesan Deputies, District Deputies, and Grand Knights asking, “If we loan a member from our First Degree Team to another First Degree Team for a First Degree ceremonial, can we receive credit for the new the Star Council Award requirement?” The answer is no.

I believe the reason for the confusion derives from the wording “host” or “participate” that is used by Gary Nolan coupled by a requirement that we have in Texas for the Lone Star Award for Excellence (LSAFE).

First, under the list of requirements of the Texas LSAFE, a council may qualify for this award by sponsoring a First Degree team that conducts at least two First Degree ceremonials during the fraternal year. This requirement also allows for a council to provide someone as a degree team member with a speaking part who participates with the host team in a First Degree ceremonial. But this requirement does not qualify as meeting the new Star Council Award criteria as it relates to First Degree ceremonials.

Second, when Gary Nolan uses the term “host”, he means that a council must sponsor a First Degree ceremonial, regardless of where the First Degree team or the candidate is from, as long as at least one candidate is welcomed into membership in the Knights of Columbus. When this happens, the council will be given credit as the “host” of the First Degree ceremonial (provided that the GK goes online at the Supreme website and completes Form 450-C).

Third, when Gary Nolan uses the term “participate in”, he means that a council must provide at least one candidate that advances to membership in the Knights of Columbus through a First Degree ceremonial regardless of who is the host council.

In addition, he has provided the following example: “Council A hosts a First Degree, however, their candidate cannot attend; Council B provides two candidates, and Council C provides one candidate. In this scenario, Council A is credited as the ‘host’ council, and Councils B and C are credited for ‘participating in’ the First Degree ceremonial.”

Following the First Degree ceremonial, the District Deputy must report the ceremony by completing and submitting Form 450-NC (which includes his comments) to both the Supreme Ceremonial Director and the State Ceremonial Chairman (i.e. Clarence Fey.) In addition, the Grand Knight must go online at [www.kofc.org](http://www.kofc.org) and complete Form 450-C if he wishes for his council to receive credit towards the new Star Council Award criteria as it relates to First Degree ceremonies.

And finally, please allow me to clear up one more myth about the First Degree Award criteria. Many believe that in order to qualify for “hosting” or “participating in” four First Degree ceremonials that one First Degree ceremonial must be conducted in each separate Quarter of the fraternal year. This is not true. If a council “hosts” or “participates in” four separate First Degree ceremonials any time during the fraternal year, they have met the requirement and should complete and submit Form 450-C. Please note that this form is “only” available on line at [www.kofc.org/un/en/officers/forms/council.html](http://www.kofc.org/un/en/officers/forms/council.html) and that you cannot download a saved copy unless you have a full software package of Adobe Acrobat . Also, a hard copy is not available.

By the way, all councils are reminded by Gary Nolan that they have the ability to conduct their own First Degree at their own council, and may read the parts (if necessary) or use the “Narration CD” in case they become short-handed. However, I remind all councils to first consult with their District Deputy and Diocesan Deputy, if possible, when planning to read a part. Nevertheless, the need to read a part should not prevent a ceremonial from proceeding when there are candidates awaiting their First Degree.

**Membership Continued On Page 4**

### Membership Continued from Page 3

Also, the Knights of Columbus official suppliers (i.e., Lynch and Kelly, English Company) now have higher quality and lower cost First Degree paraphernalia items available.

Please contact State Ceremonial Chairman Clarence Fey at 210-402-0084 or cfey@swbell.net if you have any questions regarding the First Degree or any of the degree ceremonials.

## **“FOUR FOR FALL” Second Quarter Recruitment Campaign Continues**

Our “Four For Fall” recruitment campaign continues through December 31st. Each council who recruits four new members during the months of October, November, and December will receive a four piece stone coaster set with the colorful K of C emblem laser printed on the top

of each coaster. An additional coaster set can be earned for additional four new members. District Deputies who have a net of four new members or more in their district also qualify for this award.

### **Le Quebec. Ne Montrez Aucume Pitie!**

#### **Translated: “Quebec. Show No Mercy!”**

As everyone hopefully knows by now, we surpassed the jurisdiction of New York during the 2010-2011 fraternal year, thus, making Texas the largest jurisdiction in the United States. It was a grand and historical moment in time. But as they say, “Time stands still for no man.” And so for us in Texas, this means that we must continue looking forward, and looking forward means focusing on the next largest jurisdiction, Quebec. Surpassing Quebec will make Texas the largest jurisdiction in the Americas and it is a realistic goal that we can achieve during the 2011-2012 fraternal year. Let us “ne montrez aucume pitie !!!!

## **Membership Standings 11/1/2011**

Diocese	Members	Goal	Gain	% Gain	Loss	Net
AMARILLO	1,973	100	21	21.0%	1	20
AUSTIN North	5,611	309	70	22.7%	32	38
AUSTIN South	6,436	366	116	31.7%	65	51
BEAUMONT	3,248	125	71	56.8%	6	65
BROWNSVILLE	3,132	250	108	43.2%	17	91
CORPUS CHRISTI	4,902	310	72	23.2%	4	68
DALLAS	9,707	600	118	19.7%	54	64
EL PASO	2,413	150	37	24.7%	4	33
FORT WORTH	8,700	600	129	21.5%	47	82
GAL-HOUSTON East	9,585	468	157	33.5%	55	102
GAL-HOUSTON West	11,053	622	172	27.7%	64	108
LAREDO	1,633	105	10	9.5%	0	10
LUBBOCK	1,755	100	14	14.0%	1	13
SAN ANGELO	3,028	160	22	13.8%	4	18
SAN ANTONIO West	4,270	293	116	39.6%	57	59
SAN ANTONIO East	8,108	477	125	26.2%	30	95
TYLER	2,533	155	40	25.8%	9	31
VICTORIA	6,743	210	37	17.6%	14	23
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>95,810</b>	<b>5,400</b>	<b>1,435</b>	<b>26.6%</b>	<b>464</b>	<b>971</b>

# Charities

By Joseph Picard, Chairman;  
Fundraising Committee

**C**harity – the first principle of our Order. Charity is who we are, what we are; it is how we define ourselves! We use the money raised through our charity pin sales, pancake breakfasts, fish fries, various dinners, Oktoberfests, fair and fest events, and a variety of other fundraising events to promote our good works on a local level and the state level.

At the state level, we have an added benefit -- not only do we provide funds for Special Olympics as well as other special requests, but approximately 70% of those funds are returned to the Bishops within each Diocese to be used for their selected charity:

To-date (as of October 31, 2011), our charity contributions amount to 35.88% of our anticipated goal of \$887,290. Although we are about even with our contributions of last year, lagging behind by less than 1%, we are approaching the midpoint of our fraternal year. It would be a “comfort” factor if our current status was in the 50% range.

However, this situation is not unusual in that many councils have major fund raisers at various times of the year, and these councils “catch-up” at the end of the fraternal year. You did it last year and you can do it again!

Is your council in the “Quick Start” category? There are a number of councils who submit their charity assessment before the end of the calendar year. If you are a Quick Start council, make every effort to maintain that standing. If you are not, why not start now?

If your council did not attain its charity goal in the 2010-2011 fraternal year, this is your opportunity to ignite that “Passion To Serve” to be included on the Honor Roll of Charity in 2011-2012. If your council achieved its charity goal last year, don’t lose that Passion!

Let’s make every effort to provide each Diocesan Bishop with the funds necessary to promote and enhance their designated charity.

## AID TO EDUCATION GRANT

**T**he Texas State Council will award one \$1,000 Educational Grant per diocese and two additional \$1,000 Educational Grants to the Columbian Squires. Applications for these Grants are due March 1, 2012. The winners will be approved at the State Convention. Applications for these Educational Grants are available:

- On the Texas State Council Web Site, [www.tkofc.org](http://www.tkofc.org)
- In the Star Guide, pp 58-62
- From the local District Deputy or Council.

### Eligibility Guidelines:

The detailed eligibility requirements are on the first page of the actual application form. A general summary of the requirements are:

- The applicant must be a Knight of Columbus member (in good standing of a council located in Texas), his wife, son or daughter. Dependents of deceased members or deceased grandfathers, who were in good standing in a Council in Texas, are also eligible. In addition, a grandson or granddaughter of a member in good standing in a Council in Texas may apply if their father is not a Knight of Columbus or is not in good standing.
- The Educational Grant money is for education in a University, College, Junior College, Technical School, Business School or Seminary.
- The application must be complete. The application and all supporting data must be received by the Due Date of March 1, 2012.
- The Sponsoring Council’s per capita must be paid in full and the council must not be suspended by the Supreme Council. The Sponsoring Council’s Grand Knight attests to these items when he signs the application form for the applicant.

### Application Due Date:

This Educational Grant Application and other Required Items must be received no later than March 1, 2012. Within a week after this due date, the Aid to Education Committee will meet to make recommendations for the State Convention Delegates to approve at the State Convention the following month.

If you have any questions, you may contact me directly.

**Mr. David C. Zwingman**  
**Chairman, Aid To Education Committee**  
**Texas State Council Knights of Columbus**  
**17106 Townes Rd**  
**Friendswood, TX 77546**  
**Home Telephone: 281-482-0651**  
**E-Mail Address: [dczwingman@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dczwingman@sbcglobal.net)**



## Get Free \$\$\$ for Your Bishop's State Charities' Fund

By Douglas E. Oldmixon,  
State Advocate

Due the Rod Serling "Twilight Zone" voiceover: "Imagine, if you will, a sum of money, forgotten in a dark vault, just waiting to be discovered. Who left it here...and why? Is it \$50, or perhaps \$500? Come with me to explore this vast murky realm of unremembered riches; of misplaced money - a place we call "the vault of forgotten funds". Spooky; huh?

For all the melodramatic introduction and seasonal overtones, such a place actually does exist, at least in Texas. The Texas Comptroller is the final stop for unclaimed funds before they are "escheated" (confiscated) by the state. These unclaimed funds have been reported to the Comptroller, typically by banks and utility companies which have somehow lost touch with the account or deposit owner. As of October 20, 2011 there are 69 entries for accounts with "Knights of Columbus" in the account title that are waiting to be claimed by the rightful owners.

Please check to see if any of the money belongs to your council. If it does, claim it using the form available online. Be prepared to provide the Comptroller with a copy of the Council's bylaws, tax ID certificate from the IRS, and copies of minutes where the current officers were elected. Financial Secretaries will need to provide a copy of their appointment letter from Supreme.

At least once per year, every council or assembly should go to [www.claimtexas.org](http://www.claimtexas.org) and enter "Knights of Columbus" or similar words to check for "unclaimed funds". When you find it, claim it and dedicate it to your council's Charity Fund. Since it is "free" money, this is the most appropriate use. (restart music) "If the vault of forgotten funds ever reveals its secrets to you, ensure you do not abuse its generosity...lest it close its doors forever...and leave you...in the Twilight Zone."



## Infirm Priest/License Plate Program

By Carlos Xavier Martinez, Infirm Priest/  
Cardinal Medeiros Chairman

Brothers, during this time of giving Thanks for our many blessings, we should all be Thankful for our Spiritual support provided by our Priests. These men have dedicated their lives for us and we as Knights of Columbus have made the pledge to remain in Solidarity of our Priests. These men have never wavered during our time of need, support or guidance. The Infirm Priest Fund supported by the sale of KofC License plates is a strong support of our Priests in their time of need. This sign of loyalty not only to our Order, but also the show of support for our Priests is easily accomplished by the purchase of a license plate for your vehicle. License plates are available for all members and are also available with a Handicap designation as well. Please show your support of our Priests, our Order, and our "One Nation Under God" by purchasing a license plate.

### Cardinal Medeiros Fund

#### Educational Grant Program

The future of our Catholic society is dependent upon all future generations of Brother Knights and their families. The graduate degrees attained by these future generations' bears a great financial burden. We as Brother Knights have a special instrument that we have total control as to how powerful an impact we have on our Catholic Students attaining their goal of an advanced degree. The Cardinal Medeiros Fund was initiated to support our Catholic Students in their endeavors to pursue their education in a Seminary, University, College, Junior College, Technical School, or Business School. The interest from all participating Fellows and Sustaining members is the source of the Educational Grants that are presented to Students who apply. The greater the participation the greater the ultimate amount that will be eligible for distribution to the students as the fund grows. Currently, one (1) \$1000 grant is distributed per Diocese with another two Grants for Squires. Brothers, your active participation in becoming a Cardinal Medeiros Fellow will ensure our support of your Son, Daughter, Grandson, and Granddaughter in their pursuit of an advanced education. If you are unable to become a Cardinal Medeiros Fellow, you may participate as a Sustaining Member with an initial submission of \$100 and continue until attaining the designation of a Fellow once \$1000 has been contributed.

It is never too early to submit your application to participate in the Program. Please review with your Councils and communicate the opportunity to show your support by dedicating a Fellow to a Deceased Brother, Bishop, Priest, or Family Member. Participation is not limited to only Brother Knights, a Knights family member is eligible to participate and purchase the \$1000 and attain Fellow Designation.

# Team Charity Special Olympics

By Jack Harvey,  
Special Olympics Chairman

## When Opportunity Knocks Are you ready to Answer?

### ACCOMPLISHMENT

The training and competition provided by Special Olympics Texas allows local athletes to gain the courage they need to pursue successful lives. The feelings of accomplishment that come from athletic competition enable athletes to gain the confidence they need to reach their goals in sports and in life.

### JOY

Words cannot express the feelings of joy athletes experience from their involvement with Special Olympics Texas. When participating in competition, everyone is an equal. All athletes have the chance to show off their skills while interacting with their peers. Team competitions allow athletes to experience the camaraderie of athletic sports. While every athlete wants to win a gold medal, it is the sport, not the glory that keeps the athletes involved.

### FRIENDSHIP

The bonds of friendship are one of the most enduring benefits of Special Olympics. The athletes are able to connect with other members of their community with shared interests. Through both team and individual competition, athletes have the opportunity to sustain life-long friendships and create new ones.

### LEADERSHIP

Special Olympics Texas is not just about athletic competition. The athletes acquire the skills they need to lead productive lives. Special Olympics Texas offers experienced athletes the opportunity to develop leadership and self-esteem so they can grow as an individual.

**SO!** How does this concern Our Brother Knights in the Texas State Council –The Best Of The Best-??

**VOLUNTEER** to Help at a Special Olympics Texas Events---Contact your Diocesan Coordinator--Go to [www.tkofcso.org](http://www.tkofcso.org) --for Their e-mail address ---And To See dates of Events in your area- OR---Contact ME @ [Harvey\\_jack@msn.com](mailto:Harvey_jack@msn.com) .

### Participate in Fund Raisers---

1. Advise your council to submit Form 4584-Partnership Profile... DUE : Jan. 31-FREE \$\$\$\$
2. Cell Phone Recycling—info @[www.tkofcso.org](http://www.tkofcso.org) - (free \$\$ )

3. Obtain Donations for the Special Olympics Pins ( SEE YOUR District Deputy )
4. Shake The Can (TOOTSIE ROLL) Street Corner / Store Front Drives
5. Your Imagination  
Whatever You Do Please Let Me Know.

THE PASSION TO SERVE SPECIAL  
OLYMPICS TEXAS ATHLETES

## DIOCESAN CHARITY DESIGNATIONS

### Amarillo

Continuing Spirituality Training for the Priests and Seminarians

### Austin

Vocation Fund/Emergency Funds for the Priests

### Beaumont

Infirm Priests Fund

### Brownsville

Deaf Ministry/Disabled Program

### Corpus Christi

The ARK Assessment Center and Emergency Shelter for Youth

### Dallas

Persons with Disabilities & Deaf Ministry

### El Paso

Vocations

### Fort Worth

Deaf Ministry & Seminarian Support

### Arch Galveston/Houston

Archdiocesan Catholic Schools

### Laredo

Evangelization/Outreach  
Charity & Seminarian Support

### Lubbock

Vocations/Seminarian Support

### San Angelo

Pro-Life, Seminarian  
Education and Training; Lay Leaders Support and  
Development

### Arch San Antonio

Deaf Ministry

### Tyler


Seminarian Education  
& Training

### Victoria

Continuing Education for Priests/Extension of Lay  
Ministry & Evangelization

# FrontLine Focus

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
Austin, TX  
Permit NO. 1550

 **TEXAS STATE COUNCIL**  
**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**  
A U S T I N • T E X A S  
6633 Highway 290 East  
Ste. 204  
Austin TX 78723-1157



Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ever faithful to your promises and ever close to your Church: the earth rejoices in hope of the Savior's coming and looks forward with longing to his return at the end of time. Prepare our hearts and remove the sadness that hinders us from feeling the joy and hope which his presence will bestow, for he is Lord for ever and ever. Amen.  
(Advent Prayer)

## Texas State Council Charity Standings (11/18/2011)

Diocese	Goal	YTD	Percent
El Paso	\$20,270.00	\$9,020.00	44.50%
Fort Worth	\$81,020.00	\$32,417.00	40.01%
San Antonio	\$116,440.00	\$51,494.59	44.22%
Galveston/Houston	\$192,680.00	\$81,321.74	42.21%
Dallas	\$90,440.00	\$32,473.20	35.91%
Beaumont	\$30,250.00	\$10,970.00	36.26%
Tyler	\$23,650.00	\$9,850.00	41.65%
Austin	\$112,940.00	\$55,718.98	49.34%
Corpus Christi	\$44,310.00	\$10,700.00	24.15%
Victoria	\$65,520.00	\$25,709.67	39.24%
Amarillo	\$17,610.00	\$8,090.00	45.94%
Brownsville	\$33,130.00	\$7,525.00	22.71%
San Angelo	\$28,530.00	\$10,078.00	35.32%
Laredo	\$15,620.00	\$2,970.00	19.01%
Lubbock	\$14,880.00	\$7,170.00	48.19%
Total	\$887,290.00	\$355,508.18	40.07%