

# Monthly Newsletter

April 2023

Monsignor Edward T Rabroker Assembly 2784  
Georgetown, Texas  
Website: [kofcassembly2784.org](http://kofcassembly2784.org)



## Faithful Navigator's Message

As you may already know, 10% (\$1000) of our income is generated by taking cans to a metal recycling center. Until elected as the Faithful Comptroller a few years ago, I wasn't even aware that the assembly had a recycling program. Nut sales get most of the attention so you may not know much about this important fundraiser either.

There are two collection points. One is a trailer at St Helen's, located in the parking lot behind Frizelle Hall and the parish office. The second one is a trailer next to Carr Hall at Santa Rosa. You may donate **soda and beer cans only**, preferably bagged. When the trailers are full, the cans are taken to the recycling center for cash.

You can help support this effort in three different ways:

- Save your cans and drop them off when you go to Mass or meetings.
- Publicize the program within the parish and with your neighbors and friends.
- Help Mike Judice and Oscar Delgado to periodically clean out the trailers and haul the cans to the center.

We are on course to exceed \$1000 this year. Please do what you can to increase participation. That will allow us to do even more to support charitable and patriotic efforts in the future.

Vivat Jesus!

*Larry*

### Regular Assembly Meeting:

**Tuesday, April 25**

**Saint Helen Parish  
– Frizelle Hall**

**Setup 6:00 PM**

**Meal at 6:15 PM**

**Rosary at 6:45 PM**

**Meeting at 7:00 PM**



## Faithful Friar's Letter

Dear Brother Knights,

May the peace and love of our suffering Lord be with each of you. This season of Lent is approaching its final week. Have you kept your Lenten observance? You still have time to do something special for our Lord during Lent. Remember that this is a season of prayer, penance and almsgiving. Try to do something that would fulfill all three of these elements of our Lenten

observance.

Beginning with Passion Sunday, April 2, we begin Holy Week, one of the most sacred and solemn weeks of our Church Liturgical Year. On Tuesday, April 4, Bishop Joe Vásquez will celebrate the annual Chrism Mass at St. Vincent DePaul Church in North West Austin. At this Mass the Holy Oils are blessed and distributed to all the parishes in the Diocese. This is a great symbol of our unity as a Catholic people. These Holy Oils will be used throughout the year to anoint those who are being baptized, confirmed, and, those who are ill and are in need of physical as well as spiritual healing. During Holy Week we observe the Sacred Triduum. This includes Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday and the Resurrection of our Lord on Easter Sunday. These are four special celebrations in a three-day period of time. Since the Mass on Holy Thursday begins in the evening it is considered part of Friday, thus giving us three days. On Thursday of Holy Week, April 6, we celebrate the Mass of the Lord's Supper in which we recall Christ giving us the Eucharist, His Body and Blood, and also His giving us the ordained ministry of the priesthood. On April 7 we will celebrate Good Friday as we recall the Passion and Death of our Lord and gather together to venerate the Cross through which we have gained our salvation. On April 8 we celebrate Holy Saturday as we prepare for the celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord. On Holy Saturday night Mass begins after sundown as we light the Easter fire and bless the Paschal Candle and the Holy Water. On this night throughout our diocese the Elect are brought into the Church and they receive the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Communion. On Easter Sunday we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord and we renew our Baptismal Promises. Once again, we reject sin and Satan and publicly pronounce our commitment to Jesus Christ and to His Church.

***"... During Holy Week we observe the Sacred Triduum. This includes Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday and the Resurrection of our Lord on Easter Sunday. These are four special celebrations in a three-day period of time ..."***

Be sure to check the times for these special celebrations in your parish and attend all of them during Holy Week. Be the Practical Catholics which we are called to be as Brother Knights. Remember that a Practical Catholic is one that is in good standing with the Church, one that attends Mass every weekend; if they are married, they are married in the Church; and celebrates the Sacrament of Reconciliation on a regular basis.

As we celebrate the Resurrection of the Lord let us also remember those 4<sup>th</sup> Degree members who have died recently. May they share in Christ's resurrection and eternal life.

May all of you and your families have a blessed ending of Lent and a joyous Easter Season.

Your Brother in Christ,

***Fr. Stephen Nesrsta***

**Faithful Friar**



## **Eternal Rest Grant Unto Him O Lord**

**Sir Knight Tommy Jenkins**

**March 27, 2023  
(c.1935 – 2023)**

**Member of Santa Rosa Council #12522.**

**Tommy remained a member of our Assembly and Santa Rosa Council, but lived in the DFW area (Allen) to be closer to his daughter. The family does not plan to have a public memorial service. Please keep him in your prayers and include a prayer for his daughter, Rose, as well as for his entire family.**

**RIP**

## **EIM Update – Virtus Online**

The new EIM program from Virtus Online is now active. If you are up to date with your training, you should have received an email to activate your account.

You need to login with the information provided, change your password, and answer a few simple questions. Going forward, they will notify you via email when you are due for training.

If you didn't get the email, deleted it, or weren't up to date, you will need to get help from one of these sources:

[helpdesk@virtus.org](mailto:helpdesk@virtus.org)

[eim@austindiocese.org](mailto:eim@austindiocese.org)

Or talk with the EIM coordinator at your parish office.

**Note:** Santa Rosa will have a class on April 20. Advanced registration required.





## Special Assembly Election

Nominations for next year's officers will be presented this month, with the election taking place in May. However, at our February meeting, the Trustees nominated SK Robbie Licandro, of Santa Rosa Council, to fill the remainder of the term of Faithful Captain Gary Bowers (through June 2023). At our March meeting, Robbie Licandro, was elected unanimously as Faithful Captain. Congratulations, SK Licandro.



*Sir Knight Robbie Licandro*

## Assembly Elections

Nominations for next year's officers will be presented at this month's meeting, with the election taking place in May. If you are interested in running for an office, contact one of the trustees or FN Larry Deal.



## Assembly Bylaws Changes

K of C Supreme publishes a set of bylaws that detail how assemblies will be run. Although most of the language is standard across the country, local groups are allowed to make small changes.

At the March business meeting, we reviewed our document which was last updated in 2016. The membership decided that we should amend the sections dealing with Annual Communion Sunday as well as the Chalice Program.

Formal, written, motions will be prepared for submission at the April meeting. They will then be sent to all members for review. A vote on the changes will be held in May.

Please continue to check your email for updates on the amendments.

## Newsletter Editor Needed

After handling the Assembly newsletter for four years, Faithful Admiral Chris Kolb's last newsletter will be the June 2023 newsletter. We need a member who is familiar with Microsoft Word, to step forward and become the editor when the new Faithful Navigator assumes his office.

## *Spring Exemplification of the Patriotic Order*

**April 22, 2023**



***St. Thomas More  
Catholic Church, Austin***

***See more details at the end of this newsletter.***

## 2022-2023 Assembly Officers

Faithful Friar..... Father Stephen Nesrsta

Faithful Navigator..... Larry Deal

Faithful Admiral..... Chris Kolb

Faithful Captain.....Robbie Licandro

Faithful Pilot..... William Fejeran

Faithful Scribe..... Harry Larkin

Faithful Purser..... Anthony Lanni

Faithful Comptroller..... Paul Chomka

Faithful Inner Sentinel..... Robert Miller

Faithful Outer Sentinel.....Don Ladolcetta

Faithful Trustee 3 Year..... Doug Harman

Faithful Trustee 2 Year. Jim Von der Vellen

Faithful Trustee 1 Year.... Tony Saviano



## Meeting Schedule

These are the planned 2023 dates and locations for our meetings:

**April 25** – St Helen – Frizelle Hall

**May 23** – Santa Rosa – Carr Hall

**June 24** – Picnic -- Santa Rosa – Carr Hall **(after 5PM Mass)**

**June 27** – Holy Trinity - Parish Activity Center

We will lead off with a religious activity then gather for social time and, whenever possible, a meal and beverages.

*Please check the website, newsletters, and emails for the upcoming schedule.*

[www.kofcassembly2784.org](http://www.kofcassembly2784.org)

## Assembly Name Tags Orders for Members and Wives

If you need an

**Assembly name tag**, please contact Larry Deal.

Also, several of our ladies have ordered name tags from our supplier, "What's My Name".

These badges are customized for their preferences so they must be sent in individually.

**Contact Larry Deal for an emailed copy of the order form for our ladies.**



## ***FLY YOUR FLAG***

**4 US Code Sec. 6 (U.S. Flag Code)** indicates that our nation's flag should be flown, weather permitting, from sunrise to sunset. "However, when a patriotic effect is desired, the flag may be displayed 24 hours a day if properly illuminated during the hours of darkness."

### **Flag Holidays and Remembrance Days in April:**

- ❖ **Army Day: April 6**
- ❖ **Easter Sunday: April 9**
- ❖ **Patriots' Day (First Battle of American Revolution 1775): April 19**
- ❖ **San Jacinto Day (Texas): April 21**




---

## **R.O.C.K. Dinner**

As part of our Patriot Projects, we are now supporting the Ride on Center for Kids in Georgetown (R.O.C.K). Although started as an equine program to help children with special needs, they now assist veterans with PTSD as well.

In addition to our financial support, we will host a dinner for the vets on May 16. **Volunteers are needed to help prepare and transport a spaghetti dinner to their facility.** Additional helpers will be needed to serve the meal and clean up.

Please contact Harry Larkin or Paul Chomka to sign up. We would like a good showing to demonstrate our commitment to this worthy cause.





## Color Corps Corner

### *Tentative Color Corps Fallouts*

There are at least two scheduled Assembly Color Corps events for April:



**Chrism Mass**, Tuesday, April 4, 2023, 10AM at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church in Austin. Meet at 9AM. This is a District Master request as Bishop Joe will be celebrating the Mass. We will send an email reminder.



**Spring Exemplification**, Saturday, April 22, 2023, 11AM at St. Thomas More Catholic Church in Austin. See last pages of this newsletter for more details.

During the Month of March, our Assembly's Color Corps was quite active in participating in fall outs to show respect, and honor to two Sir Knights whom we lost: Faithful Captain Gary Bowers, PGK, and Past Faithful Navigator Chuck Peterson, PGK. We were also ably assisted by Color Corps members from St. Kateri Tekakwitha Assembly #3229 (Pflugerville/Hutto).

#### **Present at the Visitation/Rosary Service on March 13 for PFN Chuck Peterson were:**

Color Corps Commander Bill Adams	District Marshal Ed Tydings (Assembly 3229)
Faithful Admiral Chris Kolb	Faithful Navigator Blake Krass (Assembly 3229)
Faithful Trustee Doug Harman	Sir Knight David Richardson
Past Grand Knight Pat Leone	

#### **Present at the Funeral Mass on March 14 for PFN Chuck Peterson were:**

District Master Jesus Villarreal	Faithful Navigator Blake Krass (Assembly 3229)
Color Corps Commander Bill Adams	Sir Knight Ramiro Martinez (Assembly 3229)
Four more Sir Knights from Monsignor Rabroker Assembly.	

#### **Present at the Visitation/Rosary Service on March 15 for Faithful Captain Gary Bowers were:**

Color Corps Commander Bill Adams	Faithful Navigator Blake Krass (Assembly 3229)
Faithful Navigator Larry Deal	Sir Knight John Day
Faithful Admiral Chris Kolb	Sir Knight Mark House
Faithful Pilot Bill Fejeran	Past Grand Knight Pat Leone
Faithful Trustee Doug Harman	Sir Knight David Richardson

#### **Present at the Funeral Mass on March 16 for Faithful Captain Gary Bowers were:**

Color Corps Commander Bill Adams	Faithful Navigator Blake Krass (Assembly 3229)
Faithful Navigator Larry Deal	Past Grand Knight Josh Jacobs
Faithful Admiral Chris Kolb	Past Grand Knight Pat Leone
Faithful Pilot Bill Fejeran	Sir Knight David Richardson
Faithful Trustee Doug Harman	Faithful Trustee Tony Saviano

#### **Present on March 16 for the Internment of PFN Chuck Peterson were:**

Faithful Navigator Larry Deal	Past Grand Knight Pat Leone
Faithful Pilot Bill Fejeran	

*Bill Adams*

**Color Corps Commander**





*Color Corps members at the end of the Visitation/Rosary for Past Faithful Navigator Chuck Peterson, PGK at St. Helen Catholic Church, Georgetown (13 March 2023): (L-R) Sir Knights Blake Krass (Assembly 3229), District Marshal Ed Tydings, Bill Adams, David Richardson, Doug Harman, and Pat Leone. Faithful Admiral Chris Kolb also present, but taking photo.*



*Color Corps members begin their vigil at the beginning of the Visitation/Rosary for Faithful Captain Gary Bowers, PGK at Ramsey Funeral Home (15 March 2023). Sir Knights were posted near the urn of the remains in groups of two, each being rotated with another pair until it was time for prayer.*





*Color Corps members at the end of the Visitation/Rosary for Faithful Captain Gary Bowers, PGK at Ramsey Funeral Home (15 March 2023): (L-R) Sir Knights Pat Leone, Mark House, Bill Fejeran, Chris Kolb, Larry Deal, Blake Krass (Assembly 3229), Bill Adams, Doug Harman, David Richardson, John Day.*



*Color Corps members before the Funeral Mass for Faithful Captain Gary Bowers, PGK at Santa Rosa Catholic Church, Andice (16 March 2023): (L-R) Sir Knights Bill Fejeran, Blake Krass (Assembly 3229), Tony Saviano, Doug Harman, Josh Jacobs [mostly hidden], Larry Deal, David Richardson [mostly hidden], Chris Kolb [in front], and Bill Adams.*



## District Master Corner

Our Worthy Faithful District Master Jesus R. Villarreal, Jr. has requested a Fall Out of all available Color Corps members for the Chrism Mass, to be celebrated by Bishop Joe Vasquez on Tuesday, April 4, 2023, 10AM at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church in Austin. Report time is 9AM.

The church's address is **9500 Neenah Avenue, Austin, Texas 78737**. It is right on the border with Round Rock just off Parmer/Ronald Reagan.

So far, the response has not been as hoped for and our Assembly can help create an impressive response for Bishop Joe Vasquez, as our District Master has requested.

## What is the Chrism Mass?

The term "chrism" is taken from the Greek *chrisma* which referred to a substance used for anointing. The title of Christ given to Jesus means "anointed one." In the early Church, the oil used for anointing during initiation came to be referred to as Chrism. As the Church grew in its early centuries, bishops found it necessary to depute to presbyters the authority to initiate and so they began to consecrate Chrism for use by presbyters in the initiation of new Christians. Today, Chrism is a sacred oil made from olive oil and perfumed with balsam and is consecrated only by the bishop. The use of the Sacred Chrism is an expression of the unity of the local Church around her bishop. Sacred Chrism is used in baptism, confirmation, and the ordination of priests and bishops, as well as in the dedication of an altar and a church. The Chrism Mass takes its name from the Chrism which is consecrated during a special Mass traditionally celebrated on the morning of Holy Thursday. The Oil of Catechumens and the Oil of the Sick are also blessed during this Mass. The priests from throughout the diocese gather to receive the holy oils they will use throughout the year.



Traditionally this Mass is held on the morning of Holy Thursday. However, because of the distances traveled and the preparations needed for the Sacred Triduum, many dioceses, including the Diocese of Austin, celebrate this solemn Mass earlier in Holy Week to allow the priests and faithful to more easily participate in this Mass.

Holy Thursday commemorates the anniversary of Christ's institution of the ministerial priesthood at the Last Supper. In modern times, following the homily, priests renew the promises they made at their ordination; promises to conform their lives more closely to Christ, to be faithful stewards of the Eucharist and other liturgical rites, and to be faithful teachers of the faith. The faithful are asked to pray for their priests and finally, all are asked to pray for the bishop that he may be a more perfect image of Christ, the Good Shepherd, Teacher, and Servant.

At the Chrism Mass this year each parish will receive 8 ounces of Chrism, the Oil of the Sick, and the Oil of the Catechumens.

Source: Diocese of Austin Website: <https://austindiocese.org/chrism>

Would you like to be a member of our Color Corps and wear the Fourth Degree Uniform?

We are currently offering a \$300 rebate when you order the uniform and sword.

Ask Color Corps Commander Bill Adams for more info.

## Faithful Captain's Report (As presented by newly-elected Faithful Captain at March meeting)

### Who Are The Fourth Degree Knights?

**The Patriotic Degree reminds us of our duty to God and country.**

We are the men who have chosen to embrace the Order's fourth principle of patriotism, the men who lead the efforts to reach out to veterans and active military and to embody the fact that one can be a faithful Catholic and also be a faithful citizen.

When the Knights of Columbus was founded in 1882, three principles united its members: charity, unity and fraternity. At that time people feared that members of the Catholic faith owed their entire allegiance to the Church and could not be trusted as citizens of their country. Patriotism was added to the Order's principles in 1900, based on the idea that Knights are loyal to both God and country.

"It is important particularly in this day and age, that our Fourth Degree Assemblies encourage active Catholic citizenship and foster the spirit of patriotism in our members and the community at large."

The "Serving Those Who Served" program is a major initiative of the Fourth Degree supporting Veterans Affairs facilities. The Knights of Columbus has representatives at almost every Veterans Affairs medical clinic in the United States, where they recruit and manage K of C volunteers in developing activities and programs that aid patients' most essential needs.

The Fourth Degree has also supported priests, in particular those who go on to serve as military chaplains. Through a special scholarship program, the Knights helped fund the education of seminarians preparing to become Catholic chaplains in the U.S. Armed Forces.

The fourth principle 'Patriotism,' commits our members to the preservation of our Church, our Order and to the many nations where Knights serve.

In everything we do as 4th degree knights, we should do it with intention of making this country more patriotic!

## Fourth Degree Shirt Orders

The following members have ordered black shirts, which are awaiting pickup. Please contact Faithful Admiral Chris Kolb, if you forgot how much you owe. Chris will be at the April meeting with your shirts. If you need alternative arrangements, you can also call Chris Kolb at [cjkolb07@gmail.com](mailto:cjkolb07@gmail.com)

Shirts are ready for pick-up for:

**Darrick McGill      Dick Witte      Oscar Delgado**  
**Joe Wilson      Rafael Garcia**

Also, I have a size 3X shirt; but I do not know who ordered this shirt.

**Have a Blessed and  
Happy Easter**



**April 9, 2023**



## Did You Forget your 2023 Dues?

If so, don't worry, our Faithful Comptroller Paul Chomka can help!

**Regular** dues are **\$20** per year.

To help our Faithful Comptroller and save on postage and printing costs, please considering paying your dues in advance by one of the following methods:

1. Mail a check to Paul Chomka, 107 Piedmont Ln, Georgetown, 78633  
*Please -- Make checks payable to **KofC Assembly 2784***
2. Click the following link to pay by credit card:

<https://square.link/u/u83r1oPU>

3. Scan the following QR code to pay on your favorite mobile device



### Get Out the Vote for 2023

Register to vote by **April 6, 2023**

In-person early voting begins **April 24**

Apply to vote by mail deadline **April 25**

In-person early voting ends **May 2**

Vote by mail ballot by **May 6.**

Williamson County ELECTION DAY...

**May 6**

## Catholic Advocacy by Chris Kolb

Last month I told you that our Texas Bishops have called Catholics to support Catholic legislation during the current 140-day Texas legislative session. Our own Diocese has said: *“The Church is called to bring awareness to policies and programs that support the life and dignity of every human person from conception through natural death, as well as policies that protect and provide for the poor and vulnerable, ensure justice for immigrants, strengthen the family unit and those that ensure all people have easy access to adequate medical and behavioral health care.”*

On March 28, I visited the State Capitol to speak to my Texas legislators and gave a report at the March Assembly meeting. The legislature’s 140-day session is still active. I am including the TCCB’s current priorities at the end of this newsletter (after the District Master’s brochure, which begins on page 14.).

These are the views of the Texas Bishops and are presented for your information. In keeping with the policy on partisan politics at assembly meetings, they do not constitute an endorsement for or against by the assembly.

If you feel called, please follow up with an email, telephone call or letter. Pray, then follow up with the one or two issues which you feel concerns you the most as a Catholic Knight.

“If today you hear His voice, harden not your hearts...”

### **PARTISAN POLITICS IS NOT ALLOWED IN THE ORDER OR IN ANY OF ITS COUNCIL CHAMBERS!**

**Members are not authorized to engage in partisan political activity in the name of the Knights of Columbus.**

**Partisan Political Activity is defined as activity directed toward success or failure of a: political party, candidate for partisan political office, partisan political group, ballot initiative, proposition, and the like.**



# Knights of Columbus

## Patriotic Degree

Our Lady of Guadalupe Province

SK Jesus R Villarreal Jr  
District VI Master

April 22, 2023 Exemplification  
In Honor of  
Sir Knight Steve Musil



### CANDIDATE INFORMATION

#### Exemplification Fee

Exemplification fee is \$90, which must be submitted with Membership Form 4 through your Assembly to the District Master.

Assemblies sponsoring priests must submit a Form 4 and \$35 fee for each priest. "No show" candidates (less than five-day notice) other than priests will be assessed \$35.

The District Master must receive all Form 4s with a check payable to "Knights of Columbus" (with "DM Fund" on the memo line) from the Faithful Controller by April 1, 2023 for the candidate(s) to be listed in the program.

Candidates will receive Patriotic Degree lapel pin, social baldric, and (later) a certificate.

#### Requirements to join the Patriotic Degree

Candidates must be 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree Knights in good standing with their Council and bring their 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree membership card to the Exemplification.

#### Official Dress for the Day - Candidates

Black, dark blue, or dark gray business suit with a white shirt, a dark tie, black socks and black shoes. *No boots. No sport coats. No button-down collars. No ruffles.*

Priests and Transitional Deacons should wear clerical attire. Active-duty members of the Armed Forces and first responders may wear their dress uniform. These are the only exceptions to official dress for the day.



## REQUIRED PAPERWORK

Candidates must complete Sections 1-4 of the Form 4. Proposer must add his name and membership number and sign Section 4.

Council Financial Secretary must review and sign Section 5 to verify that the candidate is a 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree member in good standing and to confirm the membership# and 1<sup>st</sup> Degree date.

Assembly Faithful Navigator and Faithful Comptroller must sign Section 5 to indicate acceptance into the Assembly. The Assembly number and city must also be included.

Faithful Controller must forward the Form 4s with all proper signatures along with a check to cover exemplification fee, ladies' program, and additional banquet tickets needed. Paperwork and checks are due to the District Master by April 1, 2023.

## PATRIOTIC DEGREE UNIFORM

The official uniform is available from <http://kofcuniform.com>. Cost is \$449 plus shipping for basic uniform: jacket, pants, tie, and beret.

In lieu of the uniform, Sir Knights can wear the candidate dress of the day plus social baldric and Patriotic Degree pin. If wearing a tuxedo, wear it as a suit with a long tie and a plain shirt.

The District Master will raffle off a uniform at the banquet if there is enough interest. Tickets will be \$10 for one or \$20 for three. He will also raffle a uniform for existing SKs if there is sufficient interest.

## TICKETS

Candidates are guests of the Master and will be given one Saturday night banquet ticket if attending. All others must purchase banquet tickets through their Assembly. Tickets will be handed out at the registration table.

Extra banquet tickets: \$35 each

Ladies' Program: \$25 each

All tickets must be ordered through the Assembly's Faithful Comptroller. He must submit one check payable to "Knights of Columbus" (with "DM Fund" on the memo line) with names of candidates and others attending by April 1, 2023 to:

Jesus R Villarreal Jr  
Master-Texas 6th District  
212 S Judge Hailey Dr  
P.O. Box 221  
Lott, TX 76656

## MEMBER INFORMATION

All Sir Knights are encouraged to attend the Exemplification and Mass. Sir Knights must wear uniform or dress as listed to the left and bring their 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree and Patriotic Degree membership cards.



## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**Saturday, April 22, 2023**

All events will take place at:  
St Thomas More Catholic Church  
10205 FM 620 N  
Austin, TX 78726

The Life House is the 1st building on the left side of the entrance drive. Brennan Auditorium is behind the statues that are behind the church. The PAC is the 2nd building on the left side of the entrance drive.

*Note: Times in blue have changed from original flyer.*

**11am-1pm:** Registration: TBD: Life House or Brennan Auditorium

**1pm:** Candidates assemble for final instructions followed by group photograph.

**1pm:** Ladies' Program participants meet in the Life House.

**1:30pm-3:30pm:** Exemplification: PAC

**4:15pm:** Candidates assemble for Mass.

**5-6pm:** Mass

**6-7pm:** Social and photo opportunity for singles or couples in the Hall.

**7-8:30pm:** Banquet: Meal to honor the new Sir Knights at the PAC.

## LADIES' PROGRAM

*Note: Times in blue have changed from original flyer.*

**1pm-3:45pm:** A fun and interesting program will be planned for the ladies. After the program, they can join their new Sir Knight husbands for Mass and the banquet.

## HOTEL INFORMATION

TBD

## PICTURES

A group picture will be taken just prior to the exemplification. The photographer will be available during the social to take pictures of couples or others for a nominal fee.

## HOST ASSEMBLY

St. Maximilian Kolbe Assembly 2767  
10205 FM 620 N  
Austin, Tx 78726  
Kevin Brinkman - FN

Austin Chapter K of C website  
<http://kofcaustin.org/>





## Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops

THE PUBLIC POLICY VOICE OF THE CHURCH

# 88<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature Bishops' Priority Legislation

These bills are priority consideration on March 28, Catholic Advocacy Day.  
For a full list of positions being taken by the Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops  
for the 88<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature, visit [www.txcatholic.org](http://www.txcatholic.org).

## Parental Choice

The bishops' criteria for supporting parental choice legislation includes the following:

- a preferential option for the poor and vulnerable, ensuring students with the greatest academic and financial need are first in line;
- academic accountability which requires accreditation and the administration of a norm- or criterion-referenced assessment each year (current practice at accredited schools);
- financial accountability through random audits of ESAs (Education Savings Account) by a third party; and
- protections for the privacy, autonomy and religious freedom of participating schools ensuring that educators are not required to modify their creed, practices, admissions policies, curriculum, performance standards, or assessments to serve ESA students.

**SB 8 / HB 5261, Sen. Brandon Creighton, Rep.**

**James Frank** — Improves parental rights in public schools and creates an education savings account program which will allow \$8,000 for current public school students to use toward private school tuition, tutoring, and educational expenses. **The TCCB supports this bill and urges improvement by prioritizing those with the greatest academic and financial needs.**



savings account program to enable students with disabilities and low to moderate income families to pay for tuition and fees, instructional materials, and other approved expenses outside the public school system. **The TCCB supports this bill to increase access to educational options for the poor and vulnerable.**

**SB 2354 / HB 4339, Sen. Paul Bettencourt, Rep. James Frank** — Establishes an education

**HB 4340, Rep. James Frank** — Establishes an education savings account program to enable parents to pay for tuition and fees, uniforms, instructional materials, and other approved expenses





## Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops

THE PUBLIC POLICY VOICE OF THE CHURCH

outside the public school system. The bill prioritizes students with disabilities families of low and moderate income. **The TCCB supports this bill to increase access to educational options, especially for the poor and vulnerable.**

**HB 5267, Rep. James Frank** — Establishes an education savings account to provide funding for parents to choose private or homeschool for their children. If funding is limited it prioritizes children with disabilities and those with low to moderate incomes. **The TCCB supports this bill to increase access to educational options, especially for the poor and vulnerable.**

**SB 2483, Sen. Angela Paxton** — Establishes an education savings account to provide funding for parents to choose private or home school for their children. If funding is limited it prioritizes children on free and reduced lunch. **The TCCB supports this bill to assist parents with choosing the best educational options for their children and urges improvements, including additional levels of prioritization.**

**SB 176/HB 4807, Sen. Mayes Middleton, Rep. Brian Harrison** — Allows any student in the

state to access parental choice subject to available funding and prioritizes students with disabilities if there is limited funding. **The TCCB supports this bill and encourages improvements to accountability and to prioritize students with the greatest academic and financial need.**

**HB 619, Rep. Matt Shaheen** — Creates a school choice corporate tax credit that would enable insurance companies to contribute to a non-profit scholarship for low-income students from public school to attend private schools. **The TCCB supports this bill to increase parental choice in education.**

**HB 2817, Rep. Jacey Jetton** — Establishes an education savings account program to provide funding for approved education-related expenses for certain disadvantaged public school students, including students with a disabilities or who failed to perform satisfactorily on an assessment instrument. **The TCCB supports this bill to increase access to educational options for educationally disadvantaged students.**

## Integrated Background Checks

Depending upon how the State identifies a childcare provider, providers have access to different background check databases and resources. This system creates loopholes where a known abuser is in one database but may not be in others, so providers' access is not equal.

**The TCCB supports the following bills by Rep. Candy Noble, Sen. Paul Bettencourt, and Sen. Lois Kolkhorst to close these loopholes:**

**HB 3198/SB 1473 Omnibus Bill on Child Protection:** This bill provides childcare providers with access to the Texas Education

Agency (TEA) Do Not Hire Registry, extends Department Family Protective Services (DFPS) Central Registry to all child welfare service



## Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops

THE PUBLIC POLICY VOICE OF THE CHURCH

organizations, applies the pre-employment affidavit to child welfare or services organizations, and provides equal access to TEA fingerprinted background checks. The TCCB supports this omnibus bill to close loopholes to ensure greater protection for children from predators.

**HB 3199/SB 1469 Apply Pre-Employment Affidavit to Child Welfare or Services Organizations:** Public and private schools use a pre-employment affidavit which requires applicants to discuss whether they have ever been charged with, adjudicated for, or convicted of having an inappropriate relationship with a minor. This affidavit does not bar employment but requires disclosure. The TCCB supports expanding access to this effective tool in deterring child predators from employment in child-serving organizations.

**HB 3201/SB 1470 Add Child Care Providers to TEA Do Not Hire Access:** The TEA Do Not Hire Registry includes teachers who have been found to be "creepy but not criminal." These teachers do not show up in law enforcement background checks because they were guilty of grooming or "inappropriate relationships" but not of criminal abuse. Through a due process hearing, TEA has determined these individuals cannot be hired by Texas' public schools. Private schools can access the registry and bar employment, but childcare and child welfare centers can not. In addition, these names will be in DFPS' Central Registry. The

TCCB supports this bill to ensure equal access for childcare providers to the TEA Do Not Hire Registry.

**HB 3202/SB 1471 Require Equal Access to TEA Fingerprinted Background Checks:** TEA has access to FBI and national crime databases. This bill gives private schools the same access that public schools have to TEA's fingerprinted background checks. The TCCB supports this bill to ensure that accredited private schools have equal access to background check information.

**HB 3204/SB 1472 Extend DFPS Central Registry to all Child Welfare Service Organizations:** DFPS does not allow Central Registry access to organizations who are not licensed but who have an exemption from licensure. This bill makes the Central Registry available to all child service and education providers, making it the Central Registry for all records of any state agency related to persons known by the state to have abused or neglected a child. The TCCB supports this bill to provide greater access to child protection background check information.

**HB 4236/SB 1849 Creation of Interagency Child Protection Database:** This bill creates an interagency database that combines the do-not-hire databases from each state agency so that schools and service providers can access one database. The TCCB supports this bill to improve access to child protection resources.

The Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops (TCCB) is the official public policy voice of the 16 Roman Catholic Bishops of Texas.  
Jennifer Carr Allmon, Executive Director  
Shannon Jaquette, Policy Analyst | Jenny Andrews, Policy Analyst





## Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops

THE PUBLIC POLICY VOICE OF THE CHURCH



### SB 923, Sen. Springer

This bill would prohibit undocumented immigrants from enrolling in Texas public K-12 schools unless the school board has an agreement for the US government to pay the state for their education. While the bill's author and supporters may not intend to cause harm, gambling with the education of innocent children violates their human dignity. **The TCCB opposes this bill which would remove access to education from children in Texas.**



### SB 955, Sen. Springer | HB 312, Rep. Moody

This bill changes the parole eligibility of youthful offenders, from half their sentence or 30 years, to one fourth their sentence or 20 years, but no less than two years. For capital offenses, it is a minimum of 20 years. It provides considerations for the parole board including the diminished culpability of youth, the hallmark features of youth and the greater capacity for change in youth. **The TCCB supports this bill to allow for parole consideration for youthful offenders after decades of incarceration.**



### HB 1743, Rep. Leach

This bill requires coordination between the Health and Human Services Commission and the Corrections Department to prepare the incarcerated to apply for SNAP benefits in advance of their release, to access their benefits immediately upon release. **The TCCB supports this bill to promote restorative justice.**



### HB 12, Rep. Rose

This bill extends Medicaid eligibility to new mothers to a year after the birth of their child, significantly increasing the length of

time moms can access critical postpartum health coverage. **The TCCB supports this bill to provide mothers with extended post-partum care.**



### SB 26, Sen. Kolkhorst | HB 15, Rep. S. Thompson

This bill establishes the Mental Health and Brain Research Institute of Texas to create and expedite innovation in mental health and brain research. **The TCCB supports this bill to improve the health of Texas residents, and enhance a potential medical or scientific breakthrough in mental health and brain-related sciences and biomedical research.**



### HB 1599, Rep. Bucy

This bill allows income verification using eligibility for a public assistance program (like SNAP) as part of the eligibility for Medicaid and CHIP. **The TCCB supports this bill to provide health care to eligible families in Texas.**



### HB 319, Rep. Oliverson

This bill allows medical professionals to decline to participate in a healthcare service for reasons of conscience. **The TCCB supports this bill to protect the religious liberty of healthcare providers.**