

... from the Texas State Council



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30-60-90 Day Outlook

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Be Not Afraid



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From the Texas State Council:

Let's get it done. Back to Basics, No Excuses

Alfredo Vela, Texas State Deputy

State Chaplains Message: "Gladly Will I Glory"

On December 5, 1975, Fr. Charles Kram, Jr. was ordained a priest in his home church of Sts. Cyril and Methodius in Shiner. I've met many people who personally knew Fr. Kram and his family, and it seems to me thousands who may have been at that Ordination Mass! The testimony to his holiness and the holiness of his family, friends and home communities of Shiner and Yoakum have been beautifully recorded in a book "Gladly Will I Glory in My Infirmities" by Deacon Anthony Warzecha. Having read the book and listened to many stories of his ministry I felt called to encourage devotion and prayer to him. Let me share with you this a couple of the reasons that I think his witness continues to be so timely for us today.

First, Fr. Kram conscientiously chose to radiate the love and joy of Jesus each day. As a person begins to read and listen to his story this simple fact takes on heroic proportions. As a young man in the 1950's Charles Kram suffered a serious form of polio. When he suffered this he was in the final stages of his preparation to become a priest for the Archdiocese of San Antonio. Because he suffered this he spent over a year in intensive physical therapy and rehabilitation, with his parents faithfully by his side. After the year he was physically limited, so he wasn't able to be ordained to the priesthood. In the midst of what could have been devastating circumstances he and his parents maintained their love for one another and become strong witnesses of the power of faith, hope and love.

Second, Fr. Kram helped others grow in holiness each day. After this initial setback, his friends and family continued to keep in touch and care for him. Many of his friends from the seminary kept a hope alive that one day he may be ordained to the priesthood. They commented on his joyful witness in the midst of his suffering, and thought that this could be such a powerful witness in a priest. For over twenty years they faithfully kept in touch and I'm sure that each person who visited the Kram household in those years would share how they felt uplifted by the Holy Spirit in the presence of the Kram family. Eventually the day would come when he would be ordained to the priesthood, and that must have been one of the most joyous, holy days in the history of this area!

There is so much more to share from his life that can be an inspiration for our faith. In this day when we seem to have a tendency to judge one another on what we can get out of them, it's beautiful to be reminded that it's so much more about what we can give. May God bless you and your families with a personal knowledge of the love and mercy of Jesus. Let's keep one another in prayer,

Vivat Jesus! Most Reverend Bishop Brendan Cahill, TSC State Chaplain



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Be Not Afraid

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Associate State Chaplains Message:

Texas is a well-oiled machine! We have started another fraternal year and will need to start the ground running, we have the tools to succeed as a council and as a state. The pandemic showed how need the various fraternal programs of the order are to Knights of Columbus. They were our greatest recruiting tool for the best men of the Order. As one of the new members put it. "Father, I thought joining the Knights of Columbus would mean more work, meetings, and money. But it was like joining a support group that does what I really enjoy to do. To grow in faith and service." And that is just on the fraternal side of the Order. The Insurance really shined throughout the pandemic with its aid to those in need and all the policies that protect our members' loved ones. Even many spouses and children were taken care of after co-vid struck their most venerable member. The Pandemic showed how fleeting life really is. This incoming year as Texas opens up, we have the tools to again bring in the largest number of Knights in the nation. We have more brothers to witness and live out Blessed Michael McGivney's vision of a council at every parish with pastor's first call is to the Grand Knight of the Council.

We have new priests assignments, I hope their first call was from their grand knights to offer help and support and to the lecture him on his roles to the council or parish. We are in solidarity with him—not the other way around.

We have great things for our councils, our members, and our parishes. Keep the ball rolling! Get together with your pastors to meet his priorities and then with your members to meet theirs. There are Faith in Action programs for everyone. Let's keep Fr McGivney's vision in action: make good men holy, and holy men saints! Vivat Jesus!

Rev. Mark N. P. Salas
Associate State Chaplain

Education, Training, & Communications:

Our team is here to fulfill all your needs to be a Star Council. Visit www.kofc.org or www.tkofc.org at least weekly. Check out the Star Guide Section on the State website & download the latest version. Email all forms to the correct Supreme email address (located in the Star Guide) & to the Texas State Council at forms@tkofc.org. Copy all forms to your District & Diocesan Deputy.

July – New Fraternal Year Let's Get it Done!

July 1 – New Fraternal Year starts

July 4 – Independence Day

July 16-18 – State Organizational Meeting – Round Rock, Texas

Conduct Yearly Planning Meeting

Diocesan Conferences beginning July 31, 2021

August – Getting your feet wet and building momentum. Back to Basics.

August 1st—Form 365 Report of Service Committees due to Supreme. Due to Texas State Council office by August 31

August 12th – Blessed Father J. McGivney Birthday

August 14th—Blessed Father J, McGivney Memorial..

August 15th—Form 1295 Council Audit Due

Diocesan Conferences

Be Not Afraid

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September – 1st Quarter in the books. Re-evaluate your plans make adjustments. **No Excuses.**

Roundtable Coordinator Form 2629 – Due September 30
Plan your October Membership Drives.

Leave No Neighbor Behind reports as required –

<https://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/5521191/Leave-No-Neighbor-Behind>

Feel free to contact me for any assistance.

Vivat Jesus!

David Zeigler, Education, Training, & Communications (ETC) Director

Membership: Fast Start for a New Year!

Brother Knights we ended last year strong; you did an amazing job in recruitment. Your hard work during a pandemic brought Texas back into the Circle of Honor (COH) and the Pinnacle Award.

Let's continue with that momentum into this fraternal year 2021-2022 and go Back-to-Back in COH.

This fraternal year's membership recruitment goal is set at 4600. Each district needs to be recruitment active and host at least 4 exemplifications during the fraternal year.

District Deputies be ready to assist your councils with their fraternal planners. Remember Programs and Membership go Hand-in-Hand. Plan and Schedule Exemplifications and submit the form 450. Communicate any changes with Membership/Star council requirements.

Last year Ontario kept recruiting all the way through the end of the fraternal year and took the #1 spot away from Texas in Division 1. Let's not let that happen again. If we are going to take that #1 spot away from the Canadians, we will need a Strong Start in July. Texas are you up for the challenge?

Let's Do This!

Let's get it done. Back to Basics, No Excuses

Vivat Jesus! Ron Alonzo, Membership Director

Programs:

The success of any council comes from the success of its programs. Successful programs bring new members. Without these two, a council begins to fail.

The key to any successful program is planning. Get your planning done now!

• **July Reminders** –

- New Officers – Meet with your Pastor. Review the “Working with your Pastor” guidebook provided free from Supreme.
- Order and hand out the Fraternal Planner Calendar to all officers/Directors. Plan the next 3-6 months and advertise those events, which will then help encourage new members to join and be active.
- Use the Strength and Weakness chart and Council Assessment page found in the Fraternal Planner to determine where your council is at and what direction you need to go to become a Star Council.
- Submit the Family of the Month (for June) by July 15
- Submit the Fraternal Program Report (#10784) for each activity you had this month.

- **August Reminders –**
 - Make sure the GK, Program Director, Family Director, and Community Director has taken their Safe Environment training.
 - Remember your Seminarians as they go back to school (RSVP).
 - Knights of Columbus Family Week. Plan a Family Event
 - Submit the Family of the Month (for July) by Aug 15
 - Order the Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest Kit
 - Order Soccer Challenge Kits
 - Submit the Fraternal Program Report (#10784) for each activity you had this month
- **September Reminders –**
 - Schedule Council level Soccer Challenge
 - 9/11 Day of Prayer – Consider hosting a Blue Mass for First Responders
 - Start the Shield a Badge Program
 - Start (or continue) the Into The Breach program.
 - Helping Hands / Leave No Neighbor Behind – who needs some assistance this month?
 - Submit the Family of the Month (for Aug) by Sept 15
 - Submit a Fraternal Program Report (#10784) for each activity you had this month.

Remember: Every Program is an opportunity for every Knight to put their Faith in Action and step Into the Breach.

Your Program Team is here and available to help you throughout the year.

Pat Henz, Program Director

Star Council Awards

We are now moving into the new Fraternal Year 2021-22 with a new beginning! Texas is opening back up and so should all our councils. It is time to set your sights on what it is you want to accomplish in the coming year. I can say that I am very proud of what YOU have accomplished in the past twelve months. Now let's get to work.

The Report of Officers Chosen (185) report is due to Supreme and the State Office by 6/30. This should be completed online.

The Service Program Personnel (365) report is due to Supreme and the State Office by 8/1. This should be completed online.

These reports need to include accurate emails of all men and they trigger the Mandatory Safe Environment training. Around mid-July, all Grand Knights not yet cleared will receive a unique username and password to log into the training website. It only takes around 2.5 hours to complete the three modules. The Grand Knight can hold only one other Director position in the coming year. Program, Community and Family Directors are the others that must complete Safe Environment training. In addition, the Community and Family Directors must consent to a background check. Completed training certificates are good for three years. Let's get off to a great start this year!

Let's get this done. No excuses! Vivat Jesus!

Reed Fontenot, Star Council Awards Director

Council Growth

Here's to a fresh start to a New Fraternal Year! New Beginnings for Parishes in need of a Knight's presence and New Opportunities for Our Order to Grow, HOW? New Council Development (across all languages), Reactivation of Suspended/Dormant Councils, Round

Table creation, Developing and Sustaining College Councils, and Retaining Councils “on the bubble” from falling behind on per capita and being suspended. The Parishes and Missions across Texas are re-opening their doors and our Pastors are imploring the need for Knights of Columbus to support the call to Service.

NEW COUNCILS:

Today in Texas, we continue to pursue Blessed Michael McGivney’s goal of a Knight of Columbus council in every Parish. By developing new councils, not only do we offer many Fraternal Benefits to our new members, but we also Stand in Solidarity with our Priests and continue to grow our Charitable and Fraternal Services.

The Fraternal Goal is One New Council for each Diocese.

REACTIVATIONS:

The Reactivation process is one of the best ways to help grow and strengthen our order. It gives our Brother Knights the opportunity to do great things in their parish and community.

The Fraternal Goal is 22 Reactivations. It all starts with Form 133, and the Pastors approval.

Round Tables:

Blessed Father Michael J. McGivney envisioned that every Catholic gentleman over age 18 could enjoy the Fraternal benefits of the Knights of Columbus. Our Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly has challenged us to establish a Knights of Columbus presence in all Catholic Parishes and Missions. The quickest and efficient manner is the establishment of a Round Table.

The Fraternal goal for Round Tables is 200.

College Councils:

Our objective for College Councils is to foster excellence and growth in established councils, pursue the reactivation of former college councils, and to expand our reach by establishing Round Tables or councils on Texas college campuses. Our support for these councils must help these young Knights become leaders in their current councils, be accepted and supported by surrounding councils, and ensure they are able to transition to a permanent council following their graduation.

The Council Growth Team is ready and willing to assist with your Diocesan Council Growth Activities.

BE NOT AFRAID and have NO EXCUSES, Let’s Get it Done!

God Bless Texas! God Bless the Knights!

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Vivat Jesus!

Carlos X. Martinez, Council Growth Director

Texas State Council Charities

As we enter a new fraternal year, let us embrace the new opportunities before us and make the most of every opportunity. Our Church needs the Knights of Columbus now more than ever. Our time, our talents, and our treasures are going to be vital to the revitalization of our parish communities.

The first and foremost principle upon which our Order is founded is Charity. Your Charity’s Team members trust to knit firm and steadfast our common love as brothers and win the regard and favor of our fellowmen.

Additionally, together, we shall work to pull together charitable contributions of more than \$1,020,000.00 this fraternal year. In doing so, we will put over \$700,000.00 into the hands of our Bishops to utilize for charitable works within their respective dioceses.

You will bear in mind that true charity, true charity, does not consist alone in gifts of money.

The Fundraising Committee is here to aid councils in identifying charitable service projects designed to increase their Charitable Volunteer Hours. Activities such as volunteering at Special Olympics events, active participation in Parish Ministries, serving with St. Vincent de Paul, or providing food to those in need through a mobile food delivery service such as Mobile Loaves and Fishes.

Henceforth, in Charity's sweet name, we shall raise up the weak and fallen; the tear of anguish shall be brushed away; and with loving hearts and hands bent on one another's welfare, we shall weave for each a crown of eternal glory.

BE NOT AFRAID! Vivat Jesus!

Derek W. Rabey, Charity Director

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