

FINISH LINE



**Knights of
Columbus®**
Texas
State Council

FROM THE DESK OF : STATE DEPUTY RON ALONZO

Finish Strong



As we enter the second week of Lent, may we open our hearts more fully to God's voice. Let us walk with trust, knowing that even in moments of uncertainty, His light guides our steps and His love renews our spirit. Lent is a time of reflection, renewal, and action — and as Catholic gentlemen, we are called to lead by example.

There are several Men's Conferences scheduled throughout our great State. These gatherings are tremendous opportunities to encounter men who are on fire with the Holy Spirit — men searching for deeper fraternity, faith, and purpose. Let's be present. Let's invite. Let's recruit.

Additionally, many of our councils are hosting Fish Fries during this Lenten season. These events draw our parishes and communities together — and they provide the perfect setting to share who we are and what we do. Take advantage of every opportunity to grow the Order.

Because of your hard work, we set a new record for membership intake during the month of February. That accomplishment belongs to you — and it shows what we can do when we work together with focus and energy.

We have four months remaining in this fraternal year. Now is not the time to slow down — now is the time to accelerate. Let's build on this momentum.

Let's get Texas into the Circle of Honor before our Annual State Convention, leaving us the months of May and June to push even further and achieve Pinnacle Status!

Brothers, we are capable. We are committed. And with God's grace, we will Finish Strong!

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Let's get Texas into the Circle of Honor before our Annual Convention and reclaim the #1 spot in Division I where TEXAS belongs!

Save the Date

Texas State Council Knights of Columbus, 122nd Annual State Convention, April 24-26, 2026, to be held in Dallas, TX.

Ron Alonzo
State Deputy
skronalonzo1202@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP

We believe the Knights of Columbus provides Catholic men the best opportunity in today's world of following in the footsteps of Christ. We thus want to do all within our power to grow the Order and foster healthy, vibrant councils in every parish.

As Knights, we should all believe this. Viewed in this light, it makes sense that we want to give all Catholic men the opportunity to join the Knights.

The membership goal for each Diocese in Texas for March is shown below.

We have always encouraged every District Deputy to host one Exemplification per month. An easy website has been set up to allow DDs to report their monthly Exemplification by the first of the month. Simply click [here](#) and input your information. And you can look up Exemplifications online by clicking [here](#).



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MEMBERSHIP CONT.

Goals For March

Division 1		Division 2		Division 3	
Diocese	Goal	Diocese	Goal	Diocese	Goal
Austin	68	Brownsville	24	Amarillo	13
Dallas	51	Corpus Christi	25	Beaumont	16
Fort Worth	54	San Angelo	23	El Paso	21
Gal-Houston	106	Victoria	30	Laredo	10
San Antonio	75			Lubbock	14
				Tyler	18

Do not forget that Supreme Per Capitas are due NOW. Councils will be suspended on April 10 for non-payment, so please get these paid. Contact your DD if you are not able to go online and see your council statement.

Also, State Per Capitas, if not yet paid, were due March 1. If they have not been paid, your council cannot participate in any State Council activities. These include State Free Throw Contest, Educational Grants, State Program Awards, State Convention, and so on. Please pay State Per Caps ASAP.

As we proceed into March, let's remember the best way to get a man into the Knights is a face-to-face invitation. And the best time to extend this invitation is during one of your council events. When your council is performing a service for a man or his family is when he will see the most benefit of joining.

Hosting a Fish Fry? Instead of having 10 guys in the kitchen, have a couple of Knights wander around the dining room chatting with your customers. Ask them to join. Have them go to kofc.org/join right there on the spot.

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MEMBERSHIP CONT.

Having an Easter Egg Hunt? Well, right behind those 200 eager kids ready to charge the field of battle are 200 dads in that 30–50-year-old demographic – that’s what we call “a target rich environment”. Have some guys wander around asking the guys to join and get them to do so on the spot.

Flowers on Mother’s Day? Same thing. Free throw contest? Same thing. Every event can be a membership building event if you put your mind to it.

Consider giving all the men of your parish the opportunity to join the Knights in our mission by simply asking them.

Vivat Jesus!

Bill Tillotson, Membership Director

817.690.0556

william-tillotson@yahoo.com

STAR COUNCIL

Brothers,

“I lift up my eyes to the hills—from where will my help come? My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth”. Psalm 121:1-2

We have 4 months to go. Star Council is not out of reach for anyone. The Star Council Team can help you plan & execute to obtain your goal. Get Safe Compliant, schedule your FBE’s, and go get those new members. 90% of all councils are doing extremely well with the forms. You can do this!

Safe Environment requirements are due by June 10, 2026!!!! After that date you will not be able to get the Background check done.

Meet the dates below for the Star Council & LSAFE Requirements:

April 10, 2026 – Supreme Per Capita due (Star Council)

April 24-26, 2026 -State Convention – Dallas - LSAFE

April 2026 – prepare and submit the Columbian Award to the Star Council team to verify requirements to help before you send it to Supreme.

June 30, 2026 – Form Sp-7 - Columbian Award due (Star Council) – Hard deadline, but can be submitted early.



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STAR COUNCIL CONT.

Incentive: 1st Star Council in Texas

Every Council that pre-qualifies for Star Council as of the April 17, 2026, Star Tracker Report, the Grand Knight will be entered into a drawing for a \$100 gift card. The Drawing will be held during the State Convention weekend. Do not think it is too late to earn Star Council. You still have plenty of time. Our team will continue to contact the District Deputies to maintain your Star Council status. Please note the Due Date is the last date for Submission. You can submit all forms earlier than the Due Date.

The Lord will send you help, just pray and ask for it! The Star Council Team is here as well!

Vivat Jesus!

David Zeigler, Star Council Director
Going for 300!
903-926-0776; zigsr@att.net

CHARITY

Worthy Texas Knights,

As we enter the Lenten season, let us embrace the transformative power of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Through these practices, we can deepen our spiritual connection, cultivate discipline, and extend compassion to those in need. An effective method to participate in almsgiving is through State Council Charities (SCC). I would like to inform you about how your charitable contributions are allocated within your diocese when you donate through SCC.

Listed below are the different charities that the Bishops of each diocese have chosen. Where are the donations for Texas State Charities going to in your Diocese?



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CHARITY CONT.

Diocesan Charities

Amarillo - Secondary Catholic Education in the Amarillo Diocese

Austin - Catholic Schools

Beaumont - Seminarian Fund

Brownsville - Deaf Ministry/Disabled Program

Corpus Christi - Farm of Hope (Fazenda da Esperança)

Dallas - Persons with Disabilities and Deaf Ministries

El Paso - Vocations

Fort Worth - Deaf Ministry and Seminarian Support

Galveston/Houston – Archdiocesan Catholic Schools

Laredo - Evangelization/Outreach Charity & Seminarian Support

Lubbock - Vocations/Seminarian Support

San Angelo - Seminarian Education

San Antonio - Propaedeutic Program at Assumption Seminary

Tyler - Seminarian Education & Training

Victoria - Continuing Education for Priests, Extension of Lay Ministry and Evangelization

Thank you for all the efforts made in your communities in the name of charity.



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Vivat Jesus,
Joe Jacobo
Texas State Council
Charity Director

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PROGRAMS

Here is the latest going on with programs here in the Great State of Texas. We have a lot of events coming up in the next few months. We hope to see you at one of these great events coming up in the next several weeks.

Catholic Essay Contests

The Catholic Citizenship Essays were submitted, judged and the winners were submitted to, the Diocesan Deputies, the State and Supreme Councils.

State Free Throw Championship

State Championship — March 7th, 2025. Location: Ed White Middle School, San Antonio Tx.

State Annual Bowling Tournament

Max Bowl Humble, 2390 Wilson Road in Humble Tx.

The dates are the weekends of March 14 and March 21.

The plan is to Team Bowling on Saturdays and doubles/singles on Sundays like we do every year.

Entry fees to \$30/event, with All-Events being \$10. A bowler would then pay \$100 for 9 games.

2nd Annual KofC Texas State Cornhole Tournament.

Date: April 12th, 2026.

Location: Knights of Columbus Hall, Council 2433, 321 US 77, Hallettsville Texas, 77964

Rick Guzman
State Programs Director
Vivat Jesus!



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EDUCATION, TRAINING & COMMUNICATIONS

Brother Knights,

The Texas State Convention is right around the corner. The dates for this years Convention are April 26th - April 28th in Dallas, Texas. Please start making plans for your councils to send 2 delegates for our most important gathering of the year.

For more information you can go to the State Website and check out all the details.

[State Convention Information](#)

Fraternal training continues year round. Council Elections will be coming up sooner than you think. There is no better time to get a prospective officer the information they need to succeed in their next Council Role. The Supreme Council offers training for every officer role. These training sessions take usually no more than 30 minutes. Share the following link with your Councils ahead of the election season.

[Training For Prospective Officers](#)

Here's what you need to know for the next 30, 60 and 90 days.

-March - 3rd Quarter Ending

- March 1 - All State Award Applications due for Each Director's Area
- March 1 - Educational Grant Application Due
- March 7 - State Free Throw Contest (San Antonio)
- Weekend of March 14th & 21st - State Bowling Tournament - Humble
- March 29 - Founder's Day

-April – 4th Quarter begins FINISH STRONG!!

- April 24-26 – Texas State Convention in Dallas; be on the lookout for messages on activities related to the convention
- Conduct Church Membership Drives & Exemplifications; this is a great time to speak with those new Catholic me who entered the Church on Holy Saturday.
- Start your Sp-7; this is a great time to take inventory on what you need to complete the STAR Council requirements.



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EDUCATION, TRAINING & COMMUNICATIONS CONT.

May 2025– 4th Quarter is underway FINISH STRONG!!

- Start (or complete) and submit your Sp7
- Conduct your first round of nominations for council officers for the upcoming fraternal year.

Chad Sandwell
Texas State Council
Education, Training & Communications Director
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409-656-4284

EVANGELIZATION & FAITH FORMATION

Grace and Peace Worthy Brothers,

Cor Mission:

To help focus Catholic men on Jesus by building Christ-centered brotherhood through a framework of prayer, formation & fraternity.

Cor Vision:

To aid in transforming the hearts of men through Christ-centered brotherhood. Rooted in prayer, formation and fraternity, men will be sharpened in faith and virtue as they cultivate authentic friendships with Christ and each other. We envision a future where Cor continuously helps sustain these men to lead their families, strengthen their parish communities and courageously evangelize the world as missionary disciples of Jesus Christ.



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EVANGELIZATION & FAITH FORMATION CONT.

Into the Breach: The Dignity of Work

"Men, in particular, are struggling to find their mission and meaning in life. Knights of Columbus 'Into the Breach: The Dignity of Work' video series can help Catholic men understand God's mission for them on Earth, and how work brings them closer to God and builds virtue."

-Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly

This compelling five-episode series exploring the Catholic vision of man's mission in the world and the nature of work is now available. [ItB: The Dignity of Work](#)

New Cor Ecclesiae Series - The Gospel of Life

A small group study of Pope Saint John Paul II's Encyclical Evangelium Vitae. Great for men who are wanting to learn about John Paul II's vision for a culture of life rooted in the teachings of Jesus Christ passed down through the Church

<https://shopcatholicinfo.com/products/the-gospel-of-life-cor-study-guide?variant=48956781232436>

Cor Central Newsletter

Fraternal leaders, sign up for the quarterly COR Central Newsletter.

https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/s1/HQX4QQ7?source_id=202c84f8-4855-47dd-b3a9-9c1ce47f9ef7&source_type=em&c=Evi_EA8cOa2PQ8ITgSjJ-OONM0HzuFkg0uR-lc3HRhJoz90JJBZUsQ== Each quarter receive updates from the Supreme EFF Director, new resources published by Supreme, and tips and ideas for the 3 elements of Cor (prayer, formation and fraternity). In addition, you will hear testimonials from Cor success's throughout the Order and lessons on being a Missionary Disciple. Join the community as we build the Evangelization and Faith Formation of the Knights of Columbus.



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EVANGELIZATION & FAITH FORMATION CONT.

2025-2026 Fraternal Year Council EFF Director Submission

Grand Knights and District Deputies, please assist us with our goal of all active councils with an appointed EFF director. <https://info.kofc.org/EFF-Onboarding-LP.html> Please take 2 minutes and submit your Council Evangelization and Faith Formation Director. If you need assistance in choosing/appointing a EFF Director, please reach out to me or your Diocesan EFF Coordinator. Your Pastor would also be a good resource.

Council EFF Directors and Chaplains can find startup guides, content for prayer and formation, resources and training videos at www.kofc.org/cor and for Spanish councils, www.kofc.org/cor-es.

If you have any questions about beginning or maintaining COR or how a Council EFF Director can work with existing Council activities to incorporate faith and prayer, please let our State EFF Team, your Diocesan EFF Coordinator or myself assist your council.

Diocesan EFF Coordinators:

Amarillo - [Joshua Correa](#)

Austin - [Deacon Phúc Phan](#)

Beaumont - [Deacon Michael Sigur](#)

Brownsville - [Eduardo Saenz](#)

Corpus Christi - [Abel Gutierrez](#)

Dallas - [Dr. James Kauffmann](#)

El Paso - [John Danley](#)

Fort Worth - [Deacon Guillermo Munoz](#)

Galveston/Houston - [Don Hensley](#)

Laredo - [Hector Chapa](#)

Lubbock - [Richard Hernandez](#)

San Angelo (Deanery) - [Deacon Pete Madrid](#)

San Angelo (Midland/Odessa) - [Tino Vuelvas](#)

San Angelo (Abilene) - [Kevin Pantoja](#)

San Antonio - [Joe Hernandez](#)

Tyler - [Pat Farquharson](#)

Victoria - [Eloy Bonuz](#)



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EVANGELIZATION & FAITH FORMATION CONT.

Texas State Council EFF Committeemen:

- [John Danley](#): El Paso, San Angelo, Lubbock, Amarillo
- [Gregory Brown](#): Dallas, Fort Worth, Tyler, Beaumont
- [Jose Ramos](#): Laredo, Brownsville, Corpus Christi, San Antonio
- [Will Britten](#): Austin, Galveston-Houston, Victoria

[Gregory Brown](#)

Texas State Council Knights of Columbus
Evangelization and Faith Formation Director
Vivat Jesus

The Knights of Columbus make 4 promises to all our Brother Knights and prospective Knights.

- Help all men grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ
- To provide opportunities for men to serve Christ in His Church including being a missionary disciple
- To provide opportunities for men to serve those most in need in their communities and around the world IN THE NAME OF CHRIST JESUS
- Promise to provide protection and aid to widows and orphans through our insurance arm

STATE INSURANCE LIAISON

Brothers, Tax season is here! Whether you're ahead of the game and done filing, or you're putting it off for another couple weeks, this time of year is a good opportunity to consider whether your tax rate or bracket has changed. If so, do you know the implications for your long-term financial strategy?

People can end up in a higher tax bracket than they anticipate when their income fluctuates — for example, if your salary changed, or if you retired and are drawing on different income sources. Paying a higher tax rate may mean less disposable income or less money to leave to your family as you planned.

You can protect yourself against these potential losses and build dependable cash value through permanent life insurance with the Knights of Columbus. Permanent life insurance allows you to build cash



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STATE INSURANCE LIAISON CONT.

value that you can access tax-free while you're alive. You can also create an income tax-free inheritance for your loved ones after you pass allowing permanent life insurance to be useful in a range of situations. Of course, we always recommend that you work with a qualified tax advisor or CPA in addition.

This might also be a good time to review your investment portfolio with a financial advisor from Knights of Columbus Asset Advisors. Investments have tax implications, especially with dividends, capital gains or losses, and required minimum distributions.

By carefully understanding how your investments are taxed, you can work to reduce your overall tax burden while pursuing your long-term financial goals. By helping to secure your financial future and legacy with the Knights of Columbus, you're living out the vision of Blessed Michael McGivney, who founded our Order 144 years ago this month. His mission of protecting Catholic families is as important today as it was for the first members who gathered all those years ago.

Contact your local Agent for more information.

Vivat Jesus!
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