



Knights News

February 2021

State Deputy - Joe Flaherty III

State Chaplain - Fr. James Hedderman

Associate State Chaplain - Fr. Dan Good

Associate State Chaplain - Fr. Vernon Hughley

Associate State Chaplain - Fr. Tom Woods

State Secretary - Danny Garcia

State Warden - Pat Jackson

State Treasurer - Jack Hahn

State Advocate - Bill Mores

Executive Assistant - John Bares

Immediate Past State Deputy - Griffin Shreve

Membership Director - Pete Parrish

Program Director - Steve Koach

Technology Director - Ryan Marks

US Bishops COVID Prayer

Holy Virgin of Guadalupe, Queen of the Angels and Mother of the Americas. We fly to you today as your beloved children.

We ask you to intercede for us with your Son, as you did at the wedding in Cana.

Pray for us, loving Mother, and gain for our nation and world, and for all our families and loved ones, the protection of you holy angels, that we may be spared the worst of this illness.

For those already afflicted, we ask you to obtain the grace of healing and deliverance. Hear the cries of those who are vulnerable and fearful, wipe away their tears and help them to trust.

In this time of trial and testing, teach all of us in the Church to love one another and to be patient and kind. Help us to bring the peace of Jesus to our land and to our hearts.

We come to you with confidence, knowing that you truly are our compassionate mother, health of the sick and cause of our joy.

Shelter us under the mantle of your protection, keep us in the embrace of your arms, help us always to know the love of your Son, Jesus. Amen.

Father Michael McGivney Guild

Please join the Father McGivney Guild, and support his cause for canonization. To sign up, please visit www.fathermcgivney.org.



Invite Someone to Join Today

Share the pride!

Share the joy!

Share the satisfaction!

From the Worthy State Deputy, Joe Flaherty

Mid-Year Meeting Remarks and Talking Point

Rev Fathers, Supreme Represented, State Officers, District Deputies, Directors, Chairman and Brother Knights in All, Welcome to the 2021 Mid-Year Meeting in Montgomery, AL.

I would like to start this meeting by thanking everyone for being here. I know that It took a lot to make the decision to attend this meeting and I want to thank you for doing so.

No doubt we are in a crisis when it comes to COVID-19 in the State of Alabama. These are unprecedented times. We need to work extra hard to manage our emotions well. Naturally, we feel anxiety and maybe feelings of panic, particularly when seeing new headlines, but we must remain calm.

The challenges of today give us the opportunity to put into practice the first principle of the Knights of Columbus, Charity. Charity is one of the main principles that define us.

How do we maintain your family's and neighbor's well-being?

Talking with your brothers who have our best interests at heart makes us feel safe. Keep in touch via phone, video, text, or email.

Find ways to help each other by establishing regular prayer chains or find out who needs help or food.

Are we leaving our Neighbors Behind, Think about it?

Keep communications open with your Pastor and offer your assistance. He needs Us more than ever, He needs our help right Now. Let's make a Difference, and it starts with You and Me.

Brothers, I am proud of the things that we have been able to accomplish during these challenging times. We are a band of brothers and let me share some of examples of the kinds of things that have been accomplished by councils in the state that we can all be proud of:

We help with our Communities and Churches with Donations and Manpower after storms and Hurricanes that ripped through our States.

We have supported a coat for kids drive in the state. One council in particular managed to collect over 773 articles of clothing.

We accomplished a food drive to gather food for the Cenacolo community – over 1200 pounds in 2 weeks.

In spite of challenging times, Councils have supported the Intellectual Disabilities Drive

We have saved lives through the Ultrasound Initiative

We conducted Keep Christ in Christmas Campaigns across the state.

We have even recruited a few members in spite of the challenges.

Free Online Membership MCGIVNEY2020 "Been Extended Through June 30th 2021. Let's Spread the word to Everyone you Know

I challenge you to not give up, but rather to stand together to make a difference in your life and that of others. Yes, times are challenging, but these are the times for opportunities for good.

God Bless the United State and our Government leaders. May God Continue to Bless the Alabama State Councils.

Vivat Jesus!!

From the State Program Director, Steve Koach

With a little over 2 months remaining until our State Convention, it is time for each council to prepare their applications for Supreme and State Awards. Your attention is directed to the following:

1. Facts:
 - State and Supreme awards are presented on a fraternal year basis.
 - Awards are presented at the state convention (usually in April).
 - Councils continue to conduct program activities the last 3 months of the fraternal year that are not reported.
2. In order for councils to receive credit for activities conducted for a full 12-month period, the reporting timeline will be from **1 March 2020 to 28 February 2021**.
3. Award applications are available on the State Website:

Links to each of the online forms:
Service Programs: <https://kofcalabama.org/convention/service-programs/>
Family of the Year: <https://kofcalabama.org/convention/family-of-the-year/>
Knight of the Year: <https://kofcalabama.org/convention/knight-of-the-year/>
Youth of the Year: <https://kofcalabama.org/convention/youth-of-the-year/>
4. **Deadline for award submissions is 9 March 2021**. Submit applications to: skoach99@gmail.com

Feel free to contact me if there are any questions.

Knowing that the past 12 months have been a challenge to say the least, I know that councils have conducted programs that can be submitted for consideration. Additionally, what better way to recognize those Knights, Families, and Youth who unselfishly support the Order and the Church. I urge you to submit entries for your councils. It's like playing the lottery, "you can't win unless you buy a ticket" – in this case you can't win if you don't submit an application.

Looking forward to receiving your applications, best of luck!

Vivat Jesus,
Steve Koach

State Intellectual Disabilities Campaign

Eighteen councils out of 83 have submitted checks from their FY2021 I.D. Campaigns. It's not too late for your council to conduct a campaign before the end of this fiscal year. Send your F.S. or G.K.s should send their check to the State Treasurer, Jack Hahn before April 1st.

Ron Belz

2021 State Convention Update

After much deliberation, we have decided to make this year's convention a virtual event. We are planning to do it on the same dates as previously announced, April 23rd - 25th. The format and schedule is being planned and will be published soon. We see it as being similar to last year's event with the main business meeting being held on the morning of Saturday, April 24th. Please plan on attending this important meeting.

Brothers, please begin the process of identifying your council's Grand Knight and PGK delegates to the Annual State Convention. The delegate form is required to be submitted by each council attending the convention. Please complete the form on the following page, scan it, and mail it to the State Secretary as directed in the form. Your help is very much appreciated.

Danny Garcia, State Secretary



Alabama State Council of the Knights of Columbus

2021 State Convention Delegate Certification Form

Council No. _____

Each Council must elect its delegates and alternates to the 2021 State Convention and report them to the Alabama State Council on this form. Each council is authorized to send two delegates to the State Convention.

The current Grand Knight is automatically a delegate and the second delegate must be a Past Grand Knight of the council in good standing. Alternates are not required to be Past Grand Knights but must be Third Degree members of the Council in good standing.

Please complete and sign this form and Email, Mail or Fax to the State Secretary.

Brother Danny Garcia
124 Mountain View Lane
Madison, AL 35758
(Cell) 256-604-2756
dgarcia227@gmail.com

The following members of this council will be delegates or alternates, as indicated to the Annual Alabama State Convention to be held on **April 23-25, 2021**.

THIS FORM IS DUE TO THE STATE SECRETARY NO LATER THAN 2 WEEKS PRIOR TO THE CONVENTION ON APRIL 9TH.

Please Print Neatly:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>EMAIL</u>	<u>MEMBERSHIP NO.</u>	<u>PHONE</u>
Delegate—GK:			
Delegate— PGK:			
Alternate—GK:			
Alternate—PGK:			

We the undersigned, certify that the above delegates and alternates are authorized representatives.

Grand Knight

Financial Secretary

Affix Council Seal

Alabama State Council Health Services Committee Blood Donation Program

Blood is the perfect gift. It is essential to the life of the recipient, it costs us nothing, and we get it back without our conscious action.

Every day, victims of war, disaster, disease, accident, and so on need blood. Every two seconds someone needs blood. There is no substitute for human blood. The only source of blood for victims is blood donated by volunteers. Of approximately 37% of the U.S. population are eligible donors across the US, less than 10 percent actually donate. In Alabama it is more like 4 percent.

Think for a moment about how many people you know who have had to have blood because of injury, surgery, serious illness, etc. Perhaps you, like I, have personally experienced the need for blood. In my case, my son is alive today because five anonymous persons had donated blood that he needed when he was born, and my daughter has had several transfusions.

The Health Services Committee's blood donation program has been active since our 2019 Convention. The award is point based. A Council gets one point for each Knight who gives blood during the Fraternal Year, ten points for hosting a blood drive, and an additional five points if the drive meets its goal. Points are recorded by designated person in each Council – perhaps the Community Programs Director. Blood drive activities are entered into the Blood Drive Program Log.

To reach the log,

Go to: >>kofcalabama.org<<,

Click on Programs, then Community, and then Blood Program Log,

Enter your name – not the names of the donors themselves – and the rest of the information,

Fill out the log entry for the number of donor(s) and if a blood drive hosted.

The numbers are tallied by the State Health Services Chair, the award is announced at the State Convention, and the award presented. Awards are presented to the Council and to the District with the largest numbers of donors for the fraternal year. The reporting period is from the Organizational Meeting to the next Convention.

At the 2020 convention, the first Blood Program Award winners were

COUNCIL 7584

St. Peter the Apostle Council

Kevin Moore Grand Knight, and

DISTRICT 3

Gerald Buford District Deputy

I am sure that several other Councils have Brother Knights who have donated, or even hosted blood drives, but few have been to the blood program webpage and entered their activities.

During the first half of Fraternal Year 2020/2021, four Councils reported blood donation activities. Blood program activity results were reported in each month except September. Sixty-two pints of blood were donated by Knights, and three blood drives were hosted, which gathered a total of 77 pints of blood.

IMPORTANT DONOR DEFERRAL INFORMATION

At the onset of the COVID crisis, the FDA reevaluated its donor deferral rules for donors who lived in Europe. The new guidelines are:

Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD) Information Sheet You must review all of the countries listed below and their criteria to see if they apply to you. Some countries may be listed more than once.

Do not donate if... You ever received a dura mater (or brain covering) transplant during head or brain surgery.

Do Not Donate If ...	From ...	And ...
You traveled to any country in the United Kingdom:	January 1, 1980 through	You spent a total time that adds up to 3 months or more
• Channel Islands • Isle of Man		
• England • Northern Ireland		
• Falkland Islands • Scotland		
• Gibraltar • Wales		
Do Not Donate If ...	From ...	
You received a blood transfusion in:	January 1, 1980 to Present	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • France • Ireland • England • Northern Ireland • Scotland • Wales • Isle of Man • Channel Islands • Gibraltar • Falkland Islands 		
Do Not Donate If ...	From ...	And ...
You traveled to: France Ireland	January 1, 1980 through December 31, 2001	You spent a total time that adds up to 5 years or more.

If you have questions regarding your deferral status, call 1-855-210-1278.

The Health Services Committee will continue to encourage the saving of lives by donations of blood. District Deputies, please encourage your Councils to participate in this Community Program and report their blood donations.

Knights of Columbus Youth Activities

If your Council does not have an active Youth Program, perhaps you should consider implementing one. The benefits far out weigh the minimal time involved. An active Youth Program lets the parish see that the K of C is more than fish fries and bingos. Young men with families might be inclined to join an organization that is actively supporting the Parish and providing organized activities for their children.

The K of C has the following Youth Programs which are supported by Supreme with all of the materials needed:

- Soccer Challenge – September time frame
- Free Throw Competition – January time frame
- Patriotic Essay Contest – November time frame
- Keep Christ in Christmas poster contest

Each of these activities require about 2 hours to conduct at the Council level. Winners may progress to the District and even State level.

Benefits:

- Visibility within the Parish which can assist with recruitment of younger members
- Points towards Star Council

More information is available at the Supreme web site.

Food Drive for the Comunita Cenocolo From Danny Garcia, State Secretary

As the Christmas Season approached, our State Deputy was asked by Bishop Emeritus Baker if the State Council could organize a food drive for the Comunita Cenocolo located in Blountsville, AL. The State Deputy contacted me and asked if I could organize a food drive for the community and get the food to the community before Christmas. We had less than three weeks to get the project off the ground, food gathered, and delivered before it would become next to impossible to get volunteers because of the Christmas holidays.

So, what is Comunita Cenacolo? It is a community (<https://www.hopereborn.org/>) established by Mother Elvira in Italy as a source of hope and salvation not only for many who have been dependent on drugs and distractions, but also for those who crave to encounter a true answer to the suffering they have experienced. Bishop Emeritus Baker saw the immense value of this community and worked to get a community established here in Alabama as Bishop of the Diocese of Birmingham. It is the only community of Cenocolo in Alabama and it is located near the Shrine to the Blessed Sacrament in Blountsville, AL. This community is composed of young men, though there are others around the world composed of women as well.

While we have all faced unprecedented challenges last year that we never imagined, this difficult time has also served to underscore the importance of our humanity and kindness towards our fellow man.

Not knowing how long and what logistics would be needed to pull this project off in the short time that was given, I reached out to my Grand Knight, Jerome Villarreal from Council 10232 in Madison to see what could be done. Thanks to many prayers and generous hearts Council 10232 was able to collect an estimated 1200 pounds of food in a little under 2 weeks. It was delivered on the morning of December 18th by members of Council 10232 to the Cenacolo community.

When we arrived, we were greeted by some incredible young men of the community who are fighting various addictions. As it was explained to us, the community depends and lives totally on the Providence of God, who sustains them through the gifts and contributions of those who desire to help in the work of God's Mercy. We were all impressed with their inner sense of gratitude and joyful spirit that the community displayed.

Based on this positive experience, I am working to organize an ongoing system of support for this deserving community by North Alabama and Birmingham area KofC Councils. The envisioned plan is to develop a schedule where interested councils could each take a turn in gathering and delivering food, personal hygiene, and other needed items to the community on a quarterly basis.

If your Council would like to help with this deserving project, please send me an email at dgar-cia227@gmail.com. I will then see how many councils show an interest and we can start putting together a plan and schedule for supporting the community.



MARIAN HOUR UPDATE

At the time of this writing, we still await Supreme's unveiling of the Blessed Michael McGivney Prayer Hour resource announced back on 10-December by Supreme's *SVP, Evangelization and Faith Formation*. The departure of Brother **Evan Holguin** is likely reason its release has been delayed beyond January. Brother Evan accepted a position with EWTN, duties he is able to perform from his current home near New Haven. Per earlier instructions received from Supreme, the two Marian icons in circulation in AL for the past 2½ fraternal years were surrendered to WSD Joe Flaherty. One of these has already been committed to its retirement home. Per Joe's direction at the midyear meeting however, the second icon remains available for any council desiring to host a service, subject to short-notice recall. He strongly urged its use to District Deputies.

Districts and Councils desiring to include this as one of their four faith programs on Form SP-7 should advise me directly of such desire. Councils not having had the opportunity of having the icon in their district due to having been scheduled for the second half of the fraternal year are especially encouraged to participate. Bear in mind that arrangements for its transport need to be made; I will facilitate this wherever possible.

Prayers for persecuted Christians remain sorely needed. In fact, Christians are not the only ones persecuted for seeking the path to God. Persecution of those of other faith traditions threatens Christians as well. I suspect that this may be the thrust of the St. Michael the Archangel devotion originally planned for the first of this calendar year. Until such a time, however, as large gatherings in the presence of a prayer icon are again prudent and possible, the virtual Bl. Michael McGivney Prayer Hour, once put into place, should be embraced by all. I will let all know when this happens.

Vivat Jesus!

Joe McCarty, Marian Hour Chairman
joemccarty.nd64@gmail.com
(216) 334-0506 [Cell]

TRAINING

Regional training on a variety of topics is routinely conducted by our Supreme Regional Training Director Darryl Barrios. It is all done online, and the schedule has been published. If you sign up for a session but then can't attend, sign up for a later session; he does each topic multiple times. You do need to sign up for them to get the link to join; they are not available on demand.

Financial Secretary training is also offered to Faithful Comptrollers; the only difference is the terminology used. Grand Knights and Faithful Navigators are al

so encouraged to attend. This training is also conducted online, but not in multiple sessions. As a session gets scheduled an announcement with a link is sent to all the FS's and FC's on file. The GK's and FN's will be added to the announcements for future sessions. Any specific questions or issues can be addressed one-on-one by

From the Community Director, Maurice Dupont

This past year has been trying. The Virtual Meetings, or no meeting at all. I know I miss seeing my Brother Knights and the camaraderie that goes with the State and Community meetings. We still have time to plan and carry out Community Project that is required to get the K of C Awards. I hope your council is starting to meet now. You still have time to get something like a Blood Drive or Coats for Kids.



Knights of Columbus®

*"In Loving and Serving, we
prove that we have been
created in the likeness of
God, for God is Love and
when we Love we are like
God"*

Mother Teresa



**If you are called to
serve with love
and make a difference,
become an Alabama
Knight of Columbus!**

FREE MEMBERSHIP*

**For new online membership applications
submitted before June 30, 2021.**

*for 1-year, regular dues are \$30/year thereafter.



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MCGIVNEY2020



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From Our Councils

Knights in Action, Charity

These Knights and friends are demonstrating one of KC's founding principles- CHARITY.

They loaded, unloaded and helped sort a load of 40+ boxes of food from the Gadsden Food Bank for distribution to those in need at our Center of Concern.

Want to help? Contact Mike Grieco 256-622-2088.



Prayer for the Canonization of Blessed Michael McGivney

God, our Father, protector of the poor and defender of the widow and orphan, you called your priest, Blessed Michael McGivney, to be an apostle of Christian family life and to lead the young to the generous service of their neighbor.

Through the example of his life and virtue, may we follow your Son, Jesus Christ, more closely, fulfilling his commandment of charity and building up his Body which is the Church. Let the inspiration of your servant prompt us to greater confidence in your love so that we may continue his work of caring for the needy and the outcast. We humbly ask that you glorify Blessed Michael McGivney on earth according to the design of your holy will. Through his intercession, grant the favor I now present (here make your request). Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

From Jerome Villarreal, GK Council 10232

In 2018, I was appointed ID Chairman for KofC Council 10232. As such, I found it harder and harder to do the usual ID drive events that had been established in the past, such as store-front Tootsie Roll displays etc. In researching the previous years beginning around 2012, I noticed that our numbers (collections) for Tootsie Roll drives had dropped significantly, some years as much as 80% from previous years because of stores not allowing Knights on their property for a variety of reasons. Some explained that it was a corporate policy, some saying it was a liability issue, etc.

So in 2018, we the council and assembly began trying to research alternative ways of generating funds. To use a cliché, "thinking outside the box." Dinners are always a way to generate funds, however the profit margins are not something that can always sustain such an effort. So we established a 5k race, The "Tootsie Roll 5K" <https://runsignup.com/Race/AL/Madison/KofCTootsieRoll5K?remMeAttempt=>, in addition to establishing a project performing program, i.e. Yard Work, Tree Trimming, Deck Restoration, whatever we can do based on the level of experience within our council. We only ask for donations that go towards our charities.

Flash forward to 2020 and a global pandemic, which cuts even deeper into established events. Sit down dinners are no longer possible, everything has to be on the go. Stores will definitely not let groups stand in storefronts to solicit donations. So we decided to ramp up our project efforts. Getting our name out through social media. This past weekend we tackled one of those projects and have since generated a great response from the community. We now have a couple of more projects in the queue.

We are coming into the Lenten Season and our scholarship funds that we generate through our fish fries, will also have to be supplemented because of the "new normal's" obstacles and constraints. We will make it happen. As our new Council and Assembly motto's state, "That's what we do at 10232!" TWWD@10232 and "We also do plenty at 2420" WADP@2420.

Council 10232 Intellectual Disabilities Campaign

For an article on Council 10232's Intellectual Disabilities Campaign, please go to

<https://themadisonrecord.com/2021/02/08/knights-of-columbus-donate-9k-to-mcs-special-education/>

Pictures from Council 10232's Soccer Challenge



Pictures from Council 10232's Free Throw Contest

