



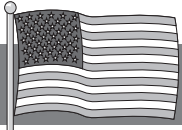
DECEMBER 2007

VOL 35 NO 2

Courier



A PUBLICATION OF THE
NEBRASKA STATE COUNCIL KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS * 4x Yearly



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CHARITY † UNITY † FRATERNITY † PATRIOTISM



The
State Officers,
District Deputies,
Directors, and Chairmen
wish for you and your families
all the Peace and Joy of this
Holy Christmas
Season.

St. Cecilia's
Cathedral, Omaha
December 6, 2007

*“A savior has been born for you who is
Messiah and Lord.”* – LUKE 2:11



Knights Participate in Centennial Parade October 6 Celebrating St. Cecilia's Cathedral Anniversary

Parts of the following reprinted with permission and written by Lisa Schulte, *The Catholic Voice*, October 5, 2007

Historic Building

St. Cecilia Cathedral is not only the cathedral church for the archdiocese, but it's a major building in the city of Omaha, said Archbishop Elden Francis Curtiss. It should be a celebration that not only involves Catholic people, but people throughout the city, he said.

The laying of the cornerstone is always the main event when a major building is erected.

"That's really the beginning of the cathedral," he said. "To celebrate that beginning is important."

Father Michael Gutsell, Rector, said, "It's because of what the laying of a cornerstone means".

"The cathedral is the place where the archbishop unites and calls to himself the whole diocese. From that standpoint, its cornerstone is a symbol or emblem of the relationship of the bishop to all the other parishes across the diocese."

In 1907, cornerstones were laid in several cathedrals around the country. Just months before the laying of the Omaha cathedral's cornerstone, Archbishop John Ireland laid the cornerstone of his cathedral in St. Paul, Minn.

"It was a defining moment in terms of Catholics and their taking a stand in a public forum of the United States," Father Gutsell said.

(Father Michael Gutsell is our Nebraska State Chaplain)

2007 Participants

Following the route of the 1907 parade, the eight divisions joined at Mutual of Omaha. These included representatives of past participants, one of which was the Knights of Columbus. The parade ended at the cathedral where there was the presentation of colors, the singing of a hymn, and the blessing of the cornerstone.

Participants in the 2007 parade included 38 organizations, 23 churches, and 14 schools. Archbishop Elden Francis Curtiss rode in one of two horse-drawn carriages. Joining him were family members of three participants in the 1907 parade: J.C. Kennedy, the grand marshal; Thomas Robert Kimball, cathedral's architect; and William Shall, the assistant grand marshal.

The parade also included antique autos, banners, floats, and local high school bands.



TOP: Knights of Columbus Fourth Degree members parade in full regalia.

MIDDLE: Many other Knights prepare to join the parade.

BOTTOM: State officers also participated. Pictured are (left to right) Mary Conrad, Seth Conrad, State Secretary Mike Conrad, Christa Conrad, State Deputy Don Ferneding, State Executive Secretary Ray Guggenberger, State Treasurer Jim Haiar.

Photographer Ron Goodrich



On our Cover

St. Cecilia's Cathedral, Omaha

Photographer Aaron Goodrich

December 6, 2007

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**We apologize for any
errors or omissions.**



Don Ferneding
Nebraska
State Deputy

*“A membership into the
Knights of Columbus
is a wonderful gift for a
son, friend, or member
of your parish.”*



Thoughts from our

To All Brother Knights:

I wish to extend a very “Merry Christmas” to all Brother Knights and their families. May each of you and your families have a blessed Christmas and a great New Year. I hope that 2007 was everything that you’ve hoped it would be and that 2008 brings you a most successful year. I also wish to thank all councils and individuals that have invited me as a guest to all of the events throughout the year. I enjoyed every function that I attended.

KNIGHTS MEMBERSHIP AS A CHRISTMAS GIFT?

As the calendar year is rapidly coming to an end, I would hope that your council has considered a successful membership program. The fiscal year is only half over, and there is a lot of time left in the year to meet your membership goals. A membership into the Knights of Columbus is a wonderful gift for a son, friend, or member of your parish.

Please remember the Knights as you close out this year. Statistically, we have only about 6% of all Catholic men in the Knights in the state of Nebraska or about 40% of all eligible Catholic men. As statistics go, we are doing great in Nebraska compared

continued top of next page

Don Ferneding Appoints John Blaiotta as the State’s New



John A. Blaiotta
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Hispanic Development
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Meet John Andrew Blaiotta, born and raised in San Francisco, California. John’s dad, Tony Blaiotta, is a PGK of Council 615 in San Francisco and brought John into the Knights 18 years ago. Both men are members of the 4th Degree. Besides taking on the position as New Council and Hispanic Development Director, John is currently the Grand Knight of Fr. Flanagan of Boys Town Council 652, Omaha. A parishioner at St. Cecilia’s Cathedral in Omaha, He also serves as one of the head ushers and a member of the Stewardship Committee.

President of Veritas Medical Group in Omaha, a medical recruiting company, John earned a Baccalaureate Degree in Business with an emphasis in management.

John describes his wife, Maria, as “a wonderfully devout Catholic woman”. They attend daily Mass and pray the Rosary every day. They are the

continued next page

Worthy State Deputy: Christmas Greetings!

to other states but we need all eligible men helping us support our churches, clergy, and communities. We need your help to remain so successful! I wish to challenge you and thank you for the help that you have given us. It is through the help of all Knights that have made us the number one fraternal organization in the world.

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION: BE MORE COUNCIL-ACTIVE

Have you ever considered a New Year's resolution to become more active in your Council's activities? Your council needs you! Without your help and expertise they cannot be successful. You are important to your council and to the State, and I wish to thank you for helping with all the charitable projects throughout the state. Many organizations are depending on us to help them do their work. Nebraska Special Olympics, the many pro-life organizations and many others would have a very difficult time from both a financial perspective as well as a work force perspective without us. It is up to us; I know we can do it, after all, "that's just what Knights do!"

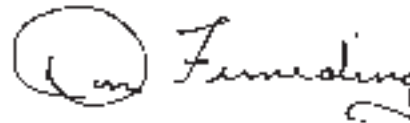
AUGUST SUPREME CONVENTION IN QUEBEC

Your Grand Knight has received information on the upcoming Supreme convention. This year the convention is being held in Quebec City, Canada. Please consider representing the state of Nebraska as a Supreme delegate for the 2008 convention. The convention will run from August 5 through August 7, 2008. Remember,

due to the convention being in Canada you will need to have a valid passport to be considered as a candidate. You will need to either have your passport or have proof of having sent in for it by the April state convention in order to be considered as a candidate. Passport applications can be obtained at the local county courthouse or if you are from the larger metropolitan areas you may be able to obtain an application form from the Post Office. Each passport will cost around \$120.00 including the passport picture. Please ask your Grand Knight for a delegate application form to run as a Supreme delegate.

Merry Christmas and may you and yours have a very happy New Year.

E Pluribus Unum Pro Deo!



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Council and Hispanic Development Director

parents of two beautiful children, Anthony and Chloe.

After accepting the newly created state position, John shared these reflections:

"When the Honorable State Deputy, Don Ferneding, asked me to help out with membership, I didn't hesitate. The reason is personal and simple. When my dad introduced me to the Knights, he had been a member for only three years (Dad was 64 years old then). He absolutely "LOVED" the Knights and was devoted. I asked him why he had taken so long to join and he simply responded, 'no one ever asked'.

I have been so blessed and privileged to work with many parishes and I can assure you, this will not happen there. I am proud to say that I have personally signed up over 60 new Knights of Columbus (who have taken their First Degree) within the last four months. I don't mention this to impress you, but to impress upon you, that if one simple Brother can do this, **we can all ask one man if he would like to join.** Make sure what happened to my father does not happen to other potential Knights."



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CHARITY ... A MAIN PRINCIPLE OF OUR ORDER

As this wonderful holiday season makes us more aware of the blessings God has bestowed on all of us, be sure to say "thank you" and give that smile, a big hug, and a kind word to all those around us!

I want to take this opportunity to say "thank you" for all your generous support of the Nebraska Knights of Columbus State Foundation.

Charity is one of the main principles of our Order. I ask you to remember the Knights of Columbus Nebraska State Council Foundation with any gifts you wish to make. All gifts are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

"Need Knows No Season"...so as our Foundation grows we as Knights can be in a position to help the unfortunate and give to causes supporting our Catholic beliefs.

On the opposite page is a list of all those donors for the past year. I invite all of you to be included on this list next year. It would be great if the *Courier* had to dedicate numerous pages to include all future donors.

May this Holiday Season bring you health, happiness, and God's continued blessings!

NOTE: Gifts must be received by December 31, 2007 to qualify for this tax year.



There's still time to donate before the end of the current tax season!

WHAT IS THE FOUNDATION AND WHAT TYPE OF GIFTS CAN I GIVE?

Your Knights of Columbus Foundation is an ENDOWMENT FUND set up to receive donor contributions. **Any donation to the ENDOWMENT FUND qualifies as a charitable contribution and is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.** (Be sure to check with your tax consultant.)

There are several types of donations that can be made:

- MEMORIALS:** Preserve the memory of a loved one through a memorial gift. Ask family, friends, and businesses to also contribute to the fund. This amount is then dedicated on behalf of him/her and becomes a **permanent memorial**.
- CASH or CHECK:** Cash or checks in any amount are always appreciated. Check with your place of employment to see if they have a "matching gift" program. **Checks should be made out to KCNSC Endowment Fund.**
- SECURITIES:** Gifts of stocks and bonds can also be donated. Check with your tax consultant on the benefits you might derive from such a donation.
- LIFE INSURANCE:** Donate a policy in any amount to the KCNSC Endowment Fund and receive an **immediate tax deduction**. **Check with your K of C insurance agent for details.**
- BEQUESTS:** The KCNSC Endowment Fund may be named as the residuary beneficiary of your estate, the recipient of a specified gift or contingent bequest, or the ultimate beneficiary of the assets of a charitable remainder trust.
- REAL ESTATE:** When you donate real estate, the money earned by liquifying it will go to the KCNSC Endowment Fund and is a tax deduction to you for the appraised amount.

To send a gift today, you may use the form below. You will receive verification of your gift for your tax records.

Here is my gift to the Knights of Columbus Nebraska State Council (KCNSC) Endowment Fund

(Must be received by December 31, 2007 to qualify for this tax year.)

in the amount of \$ _____ (Check enclosed and made payable to KCNSC Endowment Fund)

(Check boxes if appropriate)

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KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS NEBRASKA STATE COUNCIL FOUNDATION

Fiscal Year July 1, 2006 thru June 30, 2007

	Expendable	Endowment
Beginning Balance	\$ 754.43	\$ 139,827.71
Income		
Donations/contributions	\$ 1,894.33	\$ 15,722.00
Income/investments	21.75	19,910.15
Expenses		
Insurance premiums	\$1,954.33	
Admin. Fees	80.00	1,481.11
Supplies, envelopes, labor, misc.		3,120.88
Grants disbursed		13,000.00
Current Balance 6/30/07	\$ 636.18	\$157,857.57

WE APOLOGIZE FOR ANY ERRORS OR OMISSIONS.



Hispanic Integration of Grand Island Knights Council

St. Mary's Council 1159, Grand Island, Welcomes Hispanic Men as New Brother Knights



TOP PHOTO:

29 new members of Council 1159 were initiated October 21, 2007. The new Knights included Hispanic parishioners from St. Mary's Cathedral Parish, Grand Island.

BOTTOM PHOTO:

New Knight Fr. John Kakkuzhiyil (center) of St. Mary's Cathedral in Grand Island, poses with State Deputy Don Ferneding (left) and New Council and Hispanic Development Director John Blaiotta (right).

PHOTOS IN THIS SECTION ARE SUPPLIED BY THE COUNCIL.



"The November First Degree also included seminarian Juan Carlos of Colombia, South America, who traveled to Grand Island from the seminary at Conception, Missouri."

A Membership Drive was held at St. Mary's Council 1159, Grand Island, on Saturday and Sunday October 20th and 21st. Fr. Richard Piontkowski, Fr. Vince Parsons, Sr. Isabelle Sandino, and Grand Knight Mark Galvan spoke to the parishioners about joining the Knights. Fr. Parsons, Fr. Piontkowski, State Deputy Don Ferneding, State Membership Director John Soukup, Associate Membership Director-South David Wiedel, General Agent Kevin Pfeifer, Field Agent Bill Buchta, District Deputy Dean (Dusty) Hast, Grand Knight Mark Galvan, Sr. Isabel Sandino, Brother Knight (future Deacon) Frank Moreno, and Financial Secretary (and his spouse) Chuck Donner were supportive and worked diligently with the prospective Hispanic members. Our Lady of Guadalupe Council 10815, Omaha Grand Knight Jack Garcia, provided the majority of the Hispanic literature and posters. The council also had a strong showing of members supporting and working during the drive. **This was truly a TEAM effort!**

OCTOBER FIRST DEGREE CEREMONY WELCOMES 29 HISPANIC MEN

Prior to the degree ceremony, a last sign-up Blitz was held after the 11 a.m. (Hispanic) and 1 p.m. (Hispanic) Masses, with the degree ceremony taking place later that afternoon. St. Leo's Council 10387, Grand Island, acted as the degree team translating into Spanish. There were a total of 29 Hispanic men making their First Degree. Fr. John Kakkuzhiyil of St. Mary's Cathedral Parish was among them. The procession was led to the chamber by our Worthy State Deputy Don Ferneding. Following the degree ceremony, new Knights were met by their families and enjoyed sandwiches, deserts and beverages. Members of Council 1159, including Fr. Parsons, joined the celebration.

NOVEMBER SEES FIVE MORE BECOME KNIGHTS

November 18, 2007 a "Mini-Blitz" took place and 13 "Form 100's" were signed. Council 1159 held another First Degree during a regular business meeting a few days later, when five more Hispanic men became Knights. One of these men, seminarian Juan Carlos of Colombia, South America, traveled from the seminary at Conception, Missouri. He wanted to be a part of the integration at St. Mary's Council. Lincoln, performed the degree and translated into Spanish. The many members present included Fr. John Kakkuzhiyil and Fr. Parsons.

During the successful Membership Blitzes of October and November, a total of 67 "Form 100's" were filled out by prospective members, and 34 new Knights made their First Degree. There is another degree ceremony being planned in the near future to give other men an opportunity to participate in the ceremony and become Knights.



It's always a Good Day to Find New Knights!



John Soukup
State Membership Director
 2011 Ammon Ave
 Lincoln, NE 68505
 (402) 467-3123
 cornhawk@cornhusker.net



Congratulations and a pat on the back to all councils who were able to identify prospects and bring in new members this fall. Membership statewide is ahead of where we were last year at this time, so let's keep up the momentum.

As we get set to charge into a new year, please don't ease up on your recruitment efforts. Ask yourself the following questions: Who are your prospective members? Where would you most likely be able to find them? What aspects and benefits of the Order would most interest prospects of one age compared to another? Once you can answer these questions, it will be easier to determine the best way to recruit future members. The best way to come up with answers to these questions is to develop your prospect list.

With all practical Catholic men over the age of 18 considered prospects for membership, a prospect list will help you to concentrate your search, setting up your council recruiters with a centralized list of possible members.

By asking the right questions, building a list of potential members for your council isn't difficult. Here are more ways to develop your prospect list:

- Ask your pastor for the parish roster.
- Have you talked to men who went through RCIA earlier this year and are new to the Church?
- Obtain a list of former members from your financial secretary.
- Request a zip code listing of inactive insurance members and

former members in your area from the Department of Fraternal Services. (Note: these listings should be requested through the state deputy.)

- Look for active parishioners, ushers, lectors, etc.
- Put priests, deacons, religious brothers, and seminarians on your prospect list.
- Look for Squires that have or will be turning 18.
- Once the list is developed, divide it among your recruiters, and see how it saves time and makes your recruiting successful.

In addition, encourage all members at council meetings to identify prospective Knights. A Prospect Referral Card (#921) can also be used, and is available at no charge from the Supply Department. Completed lists should then be given to the membership director so these names can be added to the prospect list for follow-up with the council's recruiters. Once the list is completed, divide it up, get to work recruiting, and **remember to *Just Ask!***

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We know Cory is in a loving, safe and Christian environment and is being treated with the kindness and respect that he so deserves. The mixture of academic and social skills training seems to be just the right balance for him. Our family says, "Go, Team Madonna!"



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Being a Knight: Your Call to Evangelization

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**WHY DID YOU BECOME A KNIGHT?
DID SOMEONE ASK YOU?
DID YOU SEE SOMETHING YOU LIKED?**

I would like you to take just a minute to think back to when you joined the Knights. Why did you join?

Was it because you had friends that were joining?

Was it because someone had been bugging you week after week to join and you wanted them to stop?

Was it because your dad asked you on Monday what you were doing on Tuesday, and when you said nothing he informed you that you were joining the Knights, (which is how I got started)?

Or was it because you saw something good in what the Knights of Columbus does? Maybe you saw a Knight handing a Tootsie Roll to a young child and the smile on their face. Maybe you saw a Knight visiting someone in a hospital or nursing home. Maybe you were at Mass where there was an honor guard and you wanted to know who these guys were. Maybe, just maybe, you joined because of a little voice inside that told you this was your chance to follow the will of Jesus and evangelize others.

“He looked around and saw a need.

... He provided a vehicle for us to sustain, strengthen, and grow our Faith.”

Our founder, Fr. Michael J. McGivney, was not a silly man when he started this Order 125 years ago. He looked around and saw a need. Families were being torn apart because of the poverty and hardship that occurred after the breadwinner either died or could no longer work. He also saw the daily struggles of Catholics to maintain and grow their Faith in a society that was very against it.

Fr. McGivney, through his foresight, not only gave us a way to take care of our families, but he provided a vehicle for us to sustain, strengthen, and grow our Faith.

We are all called to be evangelists and to spread the Good News. Fr. McGivney gave us a way to do this. Through the programs of Church, Council, Community, Youth, and Family we are able to show others what it truly means to be a Christian and a Knight. Based on the principals of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity we are bound together in love for our Brothers and for all God’s children.

We should not be selfish with these gifts. We need to give them away freely. We need to let others know that there are people in this world who care and who are willing to help their fellow man.

There are over 1.7 million families in our Order. There are almost 23,000 members here in Nebraska. But that is a small portion of the families in our three Dioceses. It is our job, it is our responsibility, our calling, to be evangelists. What better way to fulfill these roles than by inviting others to join our family?

“Be an evangelist.

Look for those men and families that will benefit by being members of the Knights of Columbus.”

Each of us knows someone who needs the Knights of Columbus. Someone who has a talent that could be put to good use. Someone who may need a little friendship and encouragement to see their full potential. We need to show them what the Knights are about. Be an evangelist. Look for those families that will benefit by being members of the Knights of Columbus. Give them encouragement, show them fellowship, provide them friendship. Help guide them to place where they, too, can fulfill their obligation of evangelization.

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LOSS OF TAX EXEMPT STATUS A POSSIBILITY IF NONCOMPLIANT WITH NEW IRS REQUIREMENTS AFTER DECEMBER 31, 2006

The Pension Protection Act of 2006 ("Act") has changed the filing requirements for many of the Knights of Columbus Councils in Nebraska (and affiliated exempt organizations) for tax periods after December 31, 2006.

- A council (or affiliated organization) that normally has Annual Gross Receipts of more than \$25,000.00 is required to file a Form 990 or Form 990-EZ.
- The Act requires a council with Annual Gross Receipts that are normally \$25,000 or less (and not required to file Form 990 or Form 990-EZ) to file an annual electronic notice for tax periods beginning after December 31, 2006.

The annual electronic notice is due by the 15th day of the fifth month after the close of the tax period.

The IRS, through its E-Postcard initiative, is developing a filing system for the annual electronic notice and will be publicizing filing procedures on completion of the filing system. For the most up to date information about this new requirement, the annual electronic notice, and filing the same, you can sign up for Exempt Organization's EO Update, a regular e-mail newsletter that highlights new information posted on the charities pages of irs.gov.

To subscribe, go to www.irs.gov/eo and click on "EO Newsletter".

You can also periodically check the IRS's website at www.irs.gov/eo and follow the prompts.

Failure of a Council (or affiliated Exempt Organization) to file a Form 990 (or 990-EZ if applicable) or the annual electronic notice for three consecutive years, will result in the revocation of the tax exempt status as of the filing due date of the third year. Consult your tax preparer or local CPA for further details.



Kenneth J. Leroy
State Advocate
2008 VanBuren St.
Bellevue, NE 68005
(402) 614-8095
leroyden@cox.net



A Benefit for the Madonna Magic and Special Olympics* Sponsored by Nebraska Knights of Columbus

2008 WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL GAMES



Leland Weber, Special Projects Chairman
6569 Rd. X, Bruning, NE 68322
H: (402) 353-6285 • C: 469-0181
lelandweber@hotmail.com

THIS YEAR FEATURING FOUR EVENTS AT DIFFERENT LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT THE STATE.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 20 . . . 1:30 PM AT ST. PIUS, LINCOLN

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17 . . . 1:30 PM AT ST. CECILIA'S, HASTINGS

SUNDAY, MARCH 2 1:30 PM AT SKUTT CATHOLIC, OMAHA

SUNDAY, MARCH 30 1:30 PM AT S. SIOUX HIGH, S. SIOUX CITY

All Knights, their families & friends are invited!

Be sure to check online www.nebraskakofc.org for updates/changes

ENWAA: Eastern Nebraska Wheelchair Athletic Association

vs. Home Team: Comprised of Knights, Families, and Friends

* FREE WILL OFFERING

Game One (Jan. 20) proceeds to Madonna Magic

Games Two, Three, and Four proceeds to Special Olympics

**Come, join us as part of the team or to cheer on both sides.
Contact Leland Weber for details.**

From the Newman Center, Lincoln

KNIGHTS PARTICIPATE IN 2ND ANNUAL EUCCHARISTIC PROCESSION ON UNL CAMPUS

Fourth Degree Knights Honor Guard led the Eucharistic procession to various points around the UNL Campus.

UNL students didn't have to study hard to find the truth the night after Halloween.

Saint Thomas Aquinas Church - Newman Center held a Eucharistic procession around the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's campus on Thursday, November 1. The procession began with an All Saints' Day Mass celebrated by the pastor, Father Robert Matya, and associate pastor, Father Jay Buhman.

This is the second year the Newman Center has hosted the Eucharistic procession. It began last fall during the Newman Center's 100 year anniversary. Nearly 350 students braved cold wind to attend the procession this year. They were joined by UNL faculty, religious sisters, seminarians, and Knights of Columbus.

FOURTH DEGREE ESCORTED THE EUCCHARISTIC PROCESSION

Fourth Degree Knights escorted the group from Saint Thomas Aquinas - Newman Center around the campus. A beautiful canopy accompanied the Eucharist to three altars where the group paused to kneel for prayer. The first altar was in front of the UNL's Student Union and was decorated by Phi Kappa Theta Catholic

Fraternity. The fraternity, which became a full charter this semester, has a strong devotion to the Faith and was eager to aid and participate in the ceremony.

COUNCIL 13015 ERECTED SECOND ALTAR AT MEMORIAL STADIUM

Knights of Columbus Our Lady of Good Counsel Council 13015, Lincoln, put together the second altar, which stood in front of Memorial Stadium. The scene was much different from a game day and the prayerfulness brought a fervor the stadium had never seen.

A women's ministry group at the Newman Center coordinated the final stop at the corner of 16th and Vine Street. This group aims to foster sisterhood and accountability between Catholic women. Students from the group decorated the altar with flowers and candles and fostered prayerful reflection.

Music for the Mass was led by a student choir under the direction of Terri Morin. Along with beautiful music in the church, the choir led singing throughout the procession. A Litany of the Saints was chanted at each of the three altars during Benediction. The choir, which serves at Masses on Sundays and Thursdays, was

well rehearsed in anticipation of the night.

The ceremony concluded with a final Benediction and reposition at Saint Thomas Aquinas Church. Father Matya came to tears at the beauty of the night as he thanked those attending. He was not the only person on whom it left an impression.

"I had never seen anything like that before," said Matt Heidrick, a student, "It was moving."

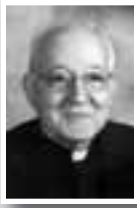
Heidrick is a member of Phi Kappa Theta and helped to set up the altar. Heidrick came to Lincoln from Bakersfield, California and was surprised by the devotion UNL students have to their faith. The procession was a new experience for him.

"It was impressive because they don't do that kind of stuff in Bakersfield. I feel like I've been left out," he said.

Heidrick hopes that others came away from the night with a similar encounter. He recognized that the ceremony may have caught those not participating off guard.

"Hopefully it raised some questions in their mind and hopefully they followed up on those questions," said Heidrick.

*Photo taken by Scott Harter.
Article written by Mary Jaros.*



Monsignor Edgar J. Wortmann
July 12, 1922 — August 31, 2007

DEATH OF ARCHDIOCESAN PRIEST

Monsignor Edgar J. Wortmann collapsed during a funeral Mass on August 31, 2007 and was taken to the hospital, where he later died.

Monsignor Wortmann was born July 12, 1922, in Bow Valley. He graduated from Trinity College, Sioux City, Iowa, in 1944. His seminary training was at Kenrick Seminary, St. Louis, Mo. He was ordained at St. Cecilia Cathedral, Omaha, April 5, 1948. Msgr. Wortmann was the oldest active priest in the Omaha Archdiocese. Monsignor Wortmann was referred to as "an absolute hero for Catholic education in northeast Omaha." He worked hard to find ways to make a private, Catholic education affordable for children. He also worked as the moderator for the National Council of Catholic Women since 1969.

KNIGHTS COURIER FORMAT

State Officers, Directors, and Chairmen: Please remember to submit your information in a story or article format. The only letter format printed will be from the State Deputy, as a farewell from an outgoing officer, or a thank you from a beneficiary of any donation/program, etc.

Councils: Please submit information you want printed. Do not send us just your council's newsletter. We will not print your meetings' minutes. What we need is the upcoming important events, results of elections or contests, etc.

Make sure your information is to-the-point, and be aware of the date the issue you are writing for will mail. You can find a list of deadline and mailing dates on page 2.



Matt Richardson
State Health Services
Director
87441 480th Ave
Atkinson, NE 68713
(402) 925-2354
mrichard@esu8.org



Pat Dougherty
State Website
Chairman
7799 L St.
Omaha, NE 68127
pat@personalpc.com

Tootsie Roll Drive

**TOOTSIE ROLL WEEKEND
APRIL 4-6, 2008**

We are nearing the Christmas Season and the end to another year. Please remember that the dates for the 2008 Tootsie Roll Drive are April 4-6. I will be sending packets out the first few days in January. The reporting forms will be mailed the first part of April. I want to thank all councils that reported, for a successful year in 2007.

Please remember to get your 2007 drive money turned in so we can close out the year.



**REPORTS DUE SPRING 2008
CAN BE EASILY FILED ONLINE**

The end of the year is upon us! Every year seems to go faster. I hope the Christmas Season finds you well and truly blessed in 2007.

We're good to go for submitting this spring's reports on the Web. This was also available later this past Spring. If you didn't take advantage of this easy way to file reports, take a look now, even test them out.

If you do submit a test, make a note in the comments section, so we know it's a test. I would also encourage you to print out a copy of the screen before you submit the report. I have it programmed to send you a copy of the submitted report via your e-mail, as well as a copy for Rich Lowery and me.

If what you get back in the e-mail doesn't match your printout, let Rich know and he'll grade your paper copy rather than the online report. Also let me know, so I can correct the problem for others using the system.

**COUNCIL WEBSITE COMPETITION
FOR 2008 CONVENTION**

We're going to run a best Council Website competition again this year. If you would like to participate, let me know and I'll include you in the judging. The winners will be announced at the State Convention in April 2008. You need not have your council Website on the state Website, just let me know the address.

FREE WEBSITE AVAILABLE TO ALL COUNCILS

Our offer still stands to set up Council websites as an offshoot of the state site. A couple of you have taken us up on that, and I thank you for that. Let me know if you would like to get started.

Be sure to visit the Nebraska Knights' Web site at:
<http://www.nebraskakofc.org>



Knights State Soccer Challenge Results



Steve Little
 State Youth Director
 8707 S. 143 St.
 Omaha, NE 68138
 (402) 896-2469
 slittle@tconl.com

The 2nd Annual Nebraska State Soccer Challenge has come to a successful conclusion. The State Challenge was held at Hastings College. The results are as follows:

Name	Age	City	Results
GIRLS			
Brianna Ridenour	11	Alliance	1st place
Allison Kalal	11	Alliance	Runner up
Megan Woodruff	12	Omaha	1st place
Claire O'Connell	13	Omaha	1st place
Vicky Traudt	14	Lincoln	1st place
BOYS			
Billy Salber	9	Omaha	1st place
Caleb Franion	11	Omaha	1st place
Roger Bunnell	11	Alliance	Runner up

Thanks to all the councils who participated, as well as the District Deputies, Grand Knights, and all Brother Knights who made every level of this first time event a success. Hopefully, this event will grow next year to resemble the Free Throw Contest in popularity. The comments I have heard from District Deputies and Grand Knights are encouraging for a larger and more successful Knights of Columbus Soccer Challenge in 2008.

2007 International Free Throw Contest

Once again the Knights of Columbus International Free Throw Championship program has shown itself to be a great success – as more than 213,000 youngsters throughout the Order participated in the 2006-2007 International Free Throw Contest. The listing below is by contestant age, name, score (out of 25 attempts), sponsoring council, and location.

NEBRASKA CHAMPIONS OF THE 2006-2007 INTERNATIONAL FREE THROW CONTEST

BOYS - 13 years: Jalen Brady, 25, Council 7550, Tilden **GIRLS - 11 years: Lia Mancuso, 24, Council 11800, Omaha**

All championship winners will be awarded trophies issued by the Supreme Council directly to State Deputies, who will contact the winners to arrange an appropriate awards ceremony. Congratulations to Jalen and Lia.

2008 Free Throw Challenge April 13, Noon, Hastings College

Nebraska Knights of Columbus STATE FREE THROW CONTEST MEDIA RELEASE FORM

I _____ (parent/guardian) of

_____ (child), do hereby give my permission to have his/her first name, council number and city, as well as a photo without identification printed in the Nebraska Knights of Columbus state newspaper (*Courier*), local council newsletters/papers, and/or local newspapers. Name information may be published based on the local, district, regional, and/or state competition levels. **This form must accompany the registration presented at the council contest.**

Signature _____ Date _____



Be sure to check the Web site for updates • www.nebraskakofc.org

squires news
squires news
squires news

SQUIRE ADVANCEMENT PROGRAM INITIATED TO RECOGNIZE AND REWARD

The Squire Advancement Program has been developed to recognize and reward each Squire for acquiring the skills and attitudes of Catholic leadership.

Through the Squire Advancement Program, a Squire will be able to advance through five levels of achievement – Page, Shield Bearer, Swordsman, Lancer, and Squire of the Body of Christ.

Circles needing additional materials for the Squire Advancement Program may order them in reasonable quantities from the Supreme Council Supply Department.

SUPREME KNIGHT UNVEILS SQUIRES' ADVANCEMENT PROGRAM AT SUPREME CONVENTION

At the 125th Annual Supreme Convention, held August 7-9 in Nashville, Tenn., Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson outlined the achievements of the Columbian Squires' program during the 2006-07 fraternal year.

"In the Knights of Columbus, we also pay particular attention to the need to recruit younger members, especially junior high and high school students through our Columbian Squires' program," said Supreme Knight Anderson. He pointed out that over the past year, the Knights of Columbus has undertaken a major initiative for the Squires — implementing the new Squires' Advancement Program. Through this program, Squires are challenged to move through five levels of advancement with a total of 160 activities. "This new approach provides a variety of faith-connected activities that guide our young men toward a lifetime of Christian living," the Supreme Knight said.

As of June 30, there were 1,378 active Squires' Circles — the highest number ever, he added.



Mike and Barb Thompson
State Pro-Life Chair Couple
 1218 W. 20th St.,
 Kearney, NE 68845
 (308) 234-3956
thompson3@charter.net

PRO-LIFE WASHINGTON MARCH, JANUARY 2008

Please note that the Pro-Life Foundation has set aside funds for Pro-Life billboards and also funds to help with travel expenses to the Pro-Life March in Washington, D.C. in January 2008. If you have any questions or need more details on these programs, please contact us.



John Nelson
State Church Director
 7143 S. Eldora Ln.
 Lincoln, NE 68505
 (402) 489-3708
jpn237@windstream.net

One Rose, 
One Life Campaign

JANUARY 5-6, 2008 WEEKEND JUST AROUND THE CORNER

As we approach the winter months, it is time once again to prepare ourselves for the One-Rose One-Life campaign and for the Buck-a-Month program.

This year's date for the One-Rose One-Life weekend is January 5th and 6th, 2008. If this weekend does not work for your council, by all means pick a different weekend.

BUCK-A-MONTH TIME IS HERE!

The Buck-a-Month program runs from January 1, 2008 to March 1, 2008, and anyone can be a member of this program. Your council will get back one half the amount of your Buck-a-Month donation for your council's Pro-Life activities.

The monies raised by your council for both programs should be sent to Mike/Barb Thompson, 1218 West 20th Street, Kearney, NE 68845. Please make the check payable to "NE Knights of Columbus Pro-Life Foundation." Please note on the check if the amount is for One-Rose One-Life or Buck-a-Month.



2008 DAY OF RECOLLECTION SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 27

The Day of Recollection in Schuyler was a success. Our State Chaplain, Father Gutsell, presented an excellent talk on the history of the Benedictine order. I was pleased with the turnout of 32 Knights and their wives. This is open to all Knights and their family and friends. Next year's Day of Recollection will be September 27, 2008.

Next year's retreat is September 27. Please mark your calendars and watch for more information.

"KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS" PROGRAM MORE THAN JUST SELLING CARDS

With the Christmas season approaching, it is rewarding to see the number of councils involved with the "Keep Christ in Christmas" program. "Keep Christ in Christmas" is now offering poster/ billboard in paper or vinyl. You can go online at www.kofcinfo.com to look at the different ones available and order direct. This would be great displayed in front of your church or hall for the public to see. Remember, we are not just selling Christmas cards, we are promoting the true meaning of Christmas.



Mom & Dad, Don't Forget About Each Other...

Jeffrey & Amy Steffen
State Family Directors
1502 Sheridan Dr.,
Norfolk, NE 68701
(402) 371-7424
jsteffen@telebeep.com



**"As parents we would do anything for our kids...
Do we make the time to do that
for our spouse ...?"**

As parents we would do anything for our kids. We pray for them and try to give them every opportunity to succeed. We are there for them when they need something ("Dad I forgot my clarinet this morning, can you drop what you're doing and bring it to school...now???"). We help them, hug them, kiss them, and of course express our love for them. Do we make the time to do that for our spouse on a regular basis?

Things would never be the same ...

I remember going through Lamaze class before we had our twins. The teacher told us when delivery day arrived we should turn around before walking out the door and take a good look, because from that point forward, it would never be the same. In the deepest sense she was talking not about the house, but of the relationship with our spouse. Our marriage hasn't been the same since December 1, 1994.

Remember you're a couple ...

I asked my Grandpa Steffen on the occasion of his 50th wedding anniversary back in 1983 (I was a strapping young college kid still in the hunt), how he and Grandma Steffen made it work while raising seven children. He said when children came into the marriage it was important to remember they were a couple before the family started. If they didn't take care of their marriage and see to each other's needs first, the family unit would suffer. Anyone can remember in their younger days the old saying "when mom and dad aren't happy, nobody is happy". When was the last time as a couple you had an evening or a weekend alone? If it's not in your budget to take a weekend get-away, send the kids to bed early, turn off the TV and focus on each other! Schedule it. Do it. When mom and dad are happy, everyone will be happy!

The new school year brought new challenges for the Steffen household. Our twin boys (our oldest) started junior high. With that leap, we have two seventh graders (Landon & Lukas), a fourth grader (Andrea), a second grader (Kassidy), and let's see, oh yes, Audrey Rose, our three year old. Beginning July 29th Amy and I attended no less than six meetings at school regarding different aspects of the new school year ranging from band camp, to cross country and football, to orientation, and to a "Meet the Teacher Night". All of this happened before the kids attended their first day. The days and nights are full of activities surrounding the kids. Then there's that thing about providing food, shelter, and clothing for them. Geezz!

Busy, busy, busy ...

In my job I rise at 3:45 a.m. and am off to work by 5 a.m. Amy is left alone to get the kids up, feed them breakfast, get the little one dressed, take them to daycare and school, and then get to her job by 7:45 a.m. On the other end of the day, I pick the kids up from school and daycare, then oversee homework, pick up after practice (that's later), and make supper so the family can sit down together at least once during the day. The dishes are done by the kids (.. can't let Mom & Dad have all the fun). I'm then at the computer for an hour or so to prepare for the next day at work, the kids are finishing up homework, and shortly thereafter its prayers and bedtime around 8:30 p.m. After being up close to 18 hours my bedtime is shortly after, and I'm usually asleep within moments, leaving Amy to get Audrey settled down to sleep.

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**WORLD YOUTH DAY 2008
TO BE HELD JULY 15-20
IN SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA**

World Youth Day, the largest youth event in the world, will be held in Sydney, Australia, from July 15-20, 2008. Organized by the Catholic Church, World Youth Day gathers young people from around the world to build bridges of friendship and hope between continents, peoples and cultures.

WYD08 will be the occasion of the first visit of His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI to Australia. Through the WYD08 experience, young people from throughout the world will make a pilgrimage in faith, meet other young people from around the world, and experience the love of God.

The young people will have an opportunity to rediscover their baptismal calling. For more information on World Youth Day 2008 visit www.wyd2008.org



**IS YOUR COUNCIL INTERESTED IN
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(402) 443-5272, rsladky@alltel.com

Lou Gasper, State Squires Development
Chairman, (402) 476-0764
lgasper@neb.rr.com

Start a new relationship this coming New Year:

**IT'S IMPORTANT TO VISIT OUR SEMINARIANS IN
PERSON, BY MAIL, OR EMAIL**



Carl Perrin

State Vocations Director
1610 E St., Schuyler, NE 68661
(402) 352-3687
popper@megavision.com

When was the last time you received a card from someone wishing you well or saying that they were praying for you? Isn't it a good feeling when someone cares enough to send you a card?

So ... when did you last think about or say a prayer for our seminarians or other religious? When did you last let them know you were thinking of them?

As we approach this Holy Season, it may be the time to begin a relationship with all our seminarians and religious in the state. Send a card to those you know about whether you know them personally or not. Also remember those that may be studying outside of the state. Just a note that

can cheer them up if they're having a bad day to let them know that we care and support the vocation they have chosen.

I have a list of all the seminarians attending school and their addresses. If you drop me a line or an e-mail, I will forward the list to you. Have you thought about getting together with some of your brother Knights and visiting a seminarian at his seminary? It's just a way to do something a little extra to show him you support him in his efforts to become a priest. Have you made the effort to talk to a prospective seminarian? How do we know whether or not they are prospects if we don't stay in touch with our youth and their parents?

We are urged to support the idea of a religious vocation whenever we get the opportunity; to create an atmosphere of support for anyone who has an inclination to a religious vocation. Help with your "Vocations Day or Night" in your area. Help improve it if it's in a rut, or start one if needed.

It is very easy to vote "yes" at our council meeting to send a check and think our vocation work is done. The real work is to send them a card and our prayers and to meet with and encourage them when they are home. It is not always someone else's job to do, it is our job too.



**Nebraskan Anna Smith Wins
2nd Place in Supreme 2006-2007
Substance Abuse Poster Contest**

Anna Smith, representing Fr. Flanagan of Boys Town Council 652, Omaha, won Supreme's 2nd Place in the 8-11 year-olds category. She will be presented a personalized certificate signed by the Supreme Knight, along with a cash reward at a special ceremony.

The 2006-2007 Substance Abuse Poster Contest was a great success with over 15,000 children participating throughout the Order. Congratulations to Anna!

To view this winning poster in color please visit
[http://www.kofc.org/eb/en/leadership_institute/resources/
sub_abuse_07/frat_subabu_Smith.pdf](http://www.kofc.org/eb/en/leadership_institute/resources/sub_abuse_07/frat_subabu_Smith.pdf)

It's time to start thinking about that item you're going to donate to the Annual Nebraska State Convention **Silent Auction.** We never have too many items to bid on, and the proceeds go to your Foundation.

We're trying to make the Auction Bigger and Better, but we need your help.

If you have an item to donate, contact

Ron Goodrich, State Publications Chair

(402) 592-0823 • knightscourier@cox.net • goodriches@cox.net


DIRECTORY UPDATES: BE SURE TO MARK THESE CHANGES IN YOUR DIRECTORY!

Page 7	Page 34	Page 42	Page 79
Printing Services	Council 1793	Council 4867	New Council:
Change address/phone to:	Change FS to:	Change FS to:	Holy Name/Saint Richard
3806 34th St	Leon B. Gentrup	Edward C. Montgomery	Grand Knight:
Columbus NE 68601	600 Emerald Dr	622 E. 3rd St	Denny Peterson
(402) 606-4118	Norfolk NE 68701-5476	Kimball NE 69145-1601	4535 Fort St
	Home: (402) 371-3625	(308) 235-2017	Omaha NE 68104
	lgentrup@cableone.net		
Page 15	Page 41	Page 73	Page 86
District Deputy 31	Council 4633	Council 11724	Assembly 2023
Leonard Scheppers	Change GK address:	Change FS to:	Change Faithful Navigator
Change email:	RR 3, Box 111	Michael T. Bykerk	Phone: (402) 643-4220
Ljshep2@embargmail.com	Winner SD 57580	330 Renee Rd	Add email:
		Doniphan NE 68832-9797	Vd40124@windstream.net
Page 16			
Family Director			
Change email to:	NEW! John Blaiotta, State New Council and Hispanic Development Director		
jsteffen@telebeep.com	115 N 38th Ave, Omaha NE 68131, (402) 699-7713, jblaiotta@aol.com		

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Don & Ron's CARSTAR Collision Center, Inc.
 70th & Q Street
 Omaha, NE 68117
 331-0520

28th National Veterans' Wheelchair Games – July 25-29, 2008

July 25-29, 2008, the 28th National Veterans' Wheelchair Games will be held in Omaha, Nebraska at the Qwest Center. There is a real need for volunteers and/or monetary donations to support the veterans that will be attending these games.

As the VAVS Coordinator for the State of Nebraska, I am making an appeal for the Assemblies and Councils in our state, and also in the Western Iowa portion of Iowa, that are served by the VA Medical Center in Omaha, to step up to the plate and "serve those who have served us", by either donating time or money to assist in the success of these games.

YOU CAN HELP BY...

Volunteering: 3,000 volunteers in various capacities are needed to help 500 to 600 athletes that will be attending.

Donating: If you cannot attend, please help by making a financial contribution that can be used to make this event a success.

Being a Spectator: Spectators are also needed to cheer the athletes, as they compete in the seventeen events scheduled.

QUESTIONS?

Contact John Oltman at the numbers listed.

Contact the Paralyzed Veterans of America Sports and Recreation Program,
(800) 424-8000, Ext. 752 or 657.

Contact the VA Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System,
Mike Wittrock (402)449-0649, e-mail Michael.wittrock@va.gov.

Visit www.wheelchairgames.va.gov.

It is our hope that the Knights of Columbus can be one of the organizations first to step up to the plate and show how we adhere to the four themes that our organization emphasizes – Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism.



John Oltman
PFN, VAVS Coordinator
1329 S. 36 St.
Omaha, NE 68105
(402) 344-4975
omahadad1@cox.net



PLEASE NOTE: No Bowling Tournaments have been scheduled for 2008 due to a lack of interest.



Bob Wolf
State Council Director
814 Canal Street
Scottsbluff, NE 69361
308-631-6170,
bbwolf1955@yahoo.com



The Holiday Season ... **A Good Time to Share Council Activities**

Now that we are in the Holiday Season, it is a good time to plan a council program that includes Knights and their families. This is the time of year that we should be thankful for all that God has blessed us with, and one of His blessings is belonging to the Knights. Your council could hold a holiday dance, a football party, or something to celebrate an event in your area.

This is also a good time to invite prospective members and their families to join you, so that they and their families can see what good things your council does. Make sure when they come to your council events that someone is assigned to meet and introduce them to members of your council. Make them feel welcome and important, especially the wives and children. The more comfortable they feel around your council, the more likely they will be to want to join you.

Be sure to invite any new members that you have brought into your council over the past year. We lose most members in the first year because they don't feel like they are part of the activities.

We are halfway through our fraternal year, time to start thinking about your Knight of the Year nominee for the State Convention. If your council isn't doing a Knight of the Month program, start one. Every month someone in your council is doing something that should be recognized. See if your parish priest will allow you to put their name in the church bulletin so that everyone will know what good things the Knights do.

HONOR OUR MILITARY

At this time of year, remember those in your parish that are serving our country in the military. It is a tough time of year for them and for their families, not being home for the holidays. For some of them it will be the first time they aren't with their families during the Holy Season. Cards, letters, and Christmas packages go a long way to helping them through this tough time. Also, take time to remember them in your prayers, ask God to watch over them and their families until they are back safe and sound.



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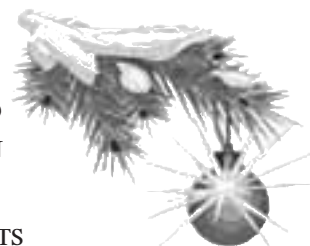


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Lack of Numbers Cancels Exemplification



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We have made it through fall and are heading into winter. Nothing seems to slow down. I have taken on a new job, and I know it is hard for some of you to get in touch with me when you want to, but I am here. You can still leave a message at— 308-749-2258 — and sometimes even catch me there. You also can call — - 308-458-2668 — and talk to me or leave a message. My e-mail — gaffneyhoward@yahoo.com — is checked every day.

We have already cancelled one exemplification in Omaha due to lack of numbers. We had permission from Vice Supreme Master Francis Schlueter to invite these to Iowa for their induction, but no one could attend. All of the credit would have still been ours by just going through the formalities there.

In October Vice Supreme Master Francis Schlueter called a regional meeting for all of the District Masters in his region. It was

held in Hays, Kansas, and all of us were in attendance. Kansas has only three or four exemplifications a year, statewide in the East, West, and Central. They use one statewide degree team. During the regional meeting, Kansas held an exemplification. That day alone they brought in 62 candidates. At the conclusion they held a big banquet for approximately 250 people. It was impressive and very formal.

In order for us to hold an exemplification, we need at least 20 candidates, even if this means combining a couple assemblies and putting on one exemplification. This is called unity. Too much time and effort goes into one of these to only hold one for a handful of men. We can do better than that. I know it!!! We can no longer afford to hold these unless we have numbers.

I would like to thank Greg Kozakiewicz, the acting District Marshall, for all the time, effort, and miles. He has traveled around the state informing the assemblies on the 4th Degree. Thank you Greg. Also thank you to all who invited him and to all who came to listen.

Get out there and beat the bushes for more candidates. Numbers are needed, and for success to happen we need to all work together in unity. Remember the four themes that our organization emphasizes—CHARITY, UNITY, FRATERNITY, and PATRIOTISM.

2008 EXEMPLIFICATIONS	Feb	Kearney11th	Mar	Humphrey4th	May	Lincoln6th
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AS "EASY" AS 1, 2, 3? BLITZ. FIRST DEGREE. NEW COUNCIL FORMED.



A. *New Council Development Director John Blaiotta with First Degree Team Leader and State Executive Secretary Ray Guggenberger.*

B. *Fr. Baumert (standing right) with the candidates prior to leading them for their First Degree.*



C. *Processing the applicants' forms. Four of the candidates are Somalian immigrants and charter members of the new council!*



D. *John Blaiotta with new Holy Name-St. Richard Council Chaplain Fr. Frank Baumert.*

PHOTOS IN THIS SECTION ARE SUPPLIED BY THE COUNCIL.



Sunday September 16, 2007 there was a membership drive at Holy Name-St. Richard's Parish. After the two Membership Blitzes and a presentation of the Knights of Columbus to the Holy Name Men's Club, 50 + form one hundreds were signed. The following Sunday was the First Degree for the many of the new applicants. The First Degree team, from Columban Council 61 92, Bellevue, was led by Ray Guggenberger, State Secretary. Of those thirty-nine men who took their First Degree, five were Somalian immigrants.

NEW NEBRASKA COUNCIL CREATED HOLY NAME-ST. RICHARD'S COUNCIL 14403, OMAHA

The thirty-nine new members who made their First Degree in September have transferred from Fr. Flanagan of Boys Town Council 652, Omaha, into their new Holy Name-St. Richard's Council. After the September 16th drive, a new council number was petitioned to Supreme and was quickly granted. Last month, Holy Name-St. Richards Council had their first meeting. Most members were present along with their Chaplain, Father Frank Baumert. The majority of all works transpired within a one week period of time: one Sunday Blitz followed by the next Sunday's First Degree Ceremony.

To ensure the new Holy Name-St. Richard's Council got off to a good start, Council 652 provided the new Acting Grand Knight Denny Petersen with a check for \$150 to establish a Holy Name Council checking account along with a new set of "Officer's Jewels" valued at \$400. Some members of Council 652 who belong to Holy Name Parish have also transferred into the new council.

SUCCESS ATTRIBUTED TO MANY SOURCES

The ability to create a new council so quickly and with success comes from many sources; it's primary is always through Christ. The people who made this possible were Father Frank Baumert, our Worthy State Deputy Don Ferneding, Executive Secretary and Degree Team Leader Ray Guggenberger, Membership Director John Soukup, Asst. Membership Director Tom Schmitz, Worthy District Deputy Bruno Kozimor, Members of St Richard-Holy Name Parish, Father Flanagan of Boys Town Council 652, the Bellevue Degree Team, and council members of 652 who worked so very hard preparing, cooking, filling out forms, and recruiting: Leo Batenhorst, Tony Briganti, Gerald Britt, Steve LaGreca, Dave Kozol, Peter Larson, Norbert Pieper, John Troia, Rich Vrchlavsky, and Bob Wachter.

Holy Name-St. Richard's Parish has several members in 652. Our council provided all food costs and manpower helping the Men's Club and parishioners with a benefit where a total of \$36,000 was raised. Council 652 also provided Holy Name with a donation to help restore the handicap entrance to the rectory in October, 2007.

It is through CHARITY when our ORDER shines its brightest and when it is most appealing to prospective members. When we presented the Knights to Holy Name Men's Club, all but one man applied. They all noted our benevolence with money and man power when Holy Name needed it most!



Beatrice Council 1723, Beatrice

Pictured above, Beatrice Knights of Columbus Council 1723 Grand Knight, Nate Crotty (left) presents checks totaling over \$1,100 to Jerry Campbell, Director of Mosaic - Beatrice Campus (right). The money comes from the Knights of Columbus annual Tootsie Roll Drive, which assists organizations both locally and statewide who serve individuals with developmental disabilities or are mentally challenged. Council 1723 Tootsie Roll Drive Chairman, Rob Ostdiek, noted the strong support of Beatrice businesses and individuals made this year's drive very successful.



more Around the State

St. Leo's Council 10387, Grand Island

St. Leo's Council 10387, Grand Island, presented a check to the Strong Americans organization and the ARC. Funds were proceeds from the Tootsie Roll Drive.

Central Catholic High School in Grand Island benefitted from the Knights' cooking skills. The council sponsored the Teacher Appreciation Luncheon held in August. Also in August, Knights hosted a student breakfast, raising funds for three students to represent St. Leo's at the National Catholic Conference in Illinois.

Central Catholic's fundraiser, Husker Harvest Days, was also supported by the Knights. Twenty members and their wives worked at the event.

PHOTOS IN THIS SECTION ARE SUPPLIED BY THE COUNCILS.

Little Blue Council 4434, Fairbury

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS JUNE 2007!

June 10, 2007, Little Blue Council celebrated the 50th anniversary of their charter, formed June 16, 1957. Council Chaplain Fr. Kenneth Hoelsing opened the evening with a blessing, and Inside Guard Steve Goeking led the "Pledge of Allegiance".

After a picnic-style meal, keynote speaker State Secretary Mike Conrad, accompanied by his wife, Mary, congratulated members on their 50 year history. The installation of officers followed the speeches, and adopted seminarian Christopher Zubrod talked of his life, current studies, and then led the closing prayer.

One highlight of the evening was recognizing three charter members still active in the council: Maurice Smith, Kenneth Howe, and Herman Wiedel who have been a Knights for 78 years.

Other Year-End Activities

Knights of Columbus Little Blue Council 4434, Fairbury, finished their fraternal year in strong fashion with a year-end picnic on May 9 and a Father's Day celebration, "Donuts for Dads", June 16 and 17. Knights cooked and served hot dogs and burgers to 38 CCD students and 8 teachers at the May picnic. The June festivities saw Knights serving donuts, coffee, and juice after all weekend Masses.



Presenting the memorial were the 4th Degree honor guard, (from left to right): Sir Knight John Johnson, Sir Knight Harold Ortmeier, Sir Knight and Worthy Deacon Paul Cerio, Sir Knight Fr. Mario Rapose, Sir Knight Jerry Adams, Sir Knight Leroy Stevens, and Sir Knight Dave Kaslon.

St. Francis Borgia Council 10412, Blair

On Sunday, May 20, 2007, Fr. Mario Rapose dedicated Knights Council 10412's memorial to unborn children. The monument reads, "In Loving Memory of all Unborn Children Lost to Abortion." The paving stones located in front of the monument are engraved with the names of those donating to the project.

WE SINCERELY APOLOGIZE FOR ANY ERRORS OR OMISSIONS.

PLEASE LET US KNOW.

Msgr. Maurice Helman Council 11280, Lincoln

June 21, 2007, Msgr. Helmann Council 11280, Lincoln, held its annual Altar Boy Outing for servers from St. John Parish. The event started at Bethany Park where the Knights provided 23 Altar Boys with a hot dog and burgers picnic. Knight Bob Nauman drove the school bus to Haymarket Park where we all enjoyed watching the Saltdogs beat the Canaries 7-1. After the game, the boys had baseballs signed by the players and took group photos with one of them. Our group was announced and was put up on the scoreboard. When asked if the boys had a good time they answered with an enthusiastic "yes"! Youth Director Don McKee and his family chaired the event.

- A. Youth Director Don McKee handing out baseball tickets.**
- B. Group shot of the altar boys.**

Msgr. Helmann Council 11280 volunteered 15 Knights and family members to assist at the August 12, 2007 Special Olympics held at Sun Valley Bowl, Lincoln. The volunteers assisted with the scoring and tracked the sequence of the bowlers. The Knights had a great time and presented the medals to the Special Olympics.

- C. Some of the workers from Council 11280. Around the table from the left is: JoAnne Clarw, Dennis Clare, Dan Kucera, State Special Projects Chairman Leland Weber, and his wife Carol. Standing at left: Past Grand Knight Dwaine Divis and Grand Knight Jeff Moton.**
- D. Grand Knight Dwaine Divis and DGK Jeff Morton, Msgr. Helmann Council 11280, Lincoln, present Sr. Jacquelyn Darner a check for \$1,011 from Tootsie Roll collections (after approval by the State Council). The check is to assist Villa Marie School in Waverly.**



Msgr. Raymond Wageman Council 8625, Valparaiso

- E. Raising a fence for the Carmelite Sisters.**
- F. Erecting a garage for a brother Knight who lost his home in a fire.**

Msgr. Raymond Wageman Council 8625, Valparaiso, erected over 800 feet of fence at the Carmelite Sisters near Agnew. Ten members of the council helped complete the project in ten days, working mainly in the evening.

The council also erected a garage for a brother Knight who recently lost his home to a fire. Over twenty-five Knights helped construct the two-car garage for Jeff Draper and his family.

Bob Rezac, Church Director, organized both of these projects. Raymono's Pizza of Raymond provided the food for both events.



St. Patrick's Assembly 607, North Platte

St. Patrick's Assembly 607, North Platte, provided the color guard for North Platte St. Patrick's first home football game. Pictured in front of the new scoreboard at Knights of Columbus Field 1 to r are: Dan Eastburn, Martin Troshynski, Jim Pokorny, and Mike Garth.



more Around the State

St. Joan Of Arc Council 9918, Omaha

Fr. Fred Kiwanuka and His Laptop Computer

During the summer months of 2004, Fr. Fred Kiwanuka of the Kampala Archdiocese in Uganda, East Africa, came to the U. S. and Omaha. Fr. Fred teaches at the Katigonda National Seminary in Uganda, East Africa.

He attended Creighton University for some continuing studies and St. Joan of Arc Parish was blessed with his presence during weekend Masses. He became a family friend to many of the parishioners because of his kindness and left a lasting impression, enough that most of the families wanted to continue to communicate after he went back to Uganda. Electricity is scarce in Uganda and Fr. Fred did not have his own computer.

In 2006, Fr. Fred was able to return to Omaha for more studies and he resided at St. Wenceslaus Parish. Fr. Fred returned to St. Joan of Arc and visited with parishioners that he had met in 2004. It was a privilege having him come back into our homes, but we knew the time would come for him to go home once more. The parishioners at St. Joan of Arc wanted to help Father with an up-to-date computer for better communication once he returned to Uganda.

The Knights of Columbus St. Joan of Arc Council 9918 decided to purchase a laptop computer with CD player and a printer. After Mass and during our Annual Awards Banquet Dinner last August, Fr. Dan Soltys, (Council Chaplain), Brian Soukup, (Grand Knight), and Lou

Masters (council member), presented Fr. Fred with the computer as a thank you from the Knights.

Fr. Fred was extremely grateful and expressed his gratitude with a prayer. Now we communicate across the globe in style.

Altar Server Outing

After the long school year was close to being over during the month of May, the membership of St. Joan of Arc Council thought it would be a nice surprise and a way to say 'thank you' to our altar servers by having a party. Since our charter year of 1988, the council has been throwing altar servers 'thank you' parties during May.

We have had 30 to 40 boys and girls each year either attend baseball a game at Rosenblatt Stadium and sit in the press box, attend a Nebraska spring football game in Lincoln, go roller-skating, or bowling. We serve the kids a snack of hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, and pop. The council handles the entire cost of the outing and transportation. This is another activity that helps us spread our brotherhood around, and it shows our appreciation to the boys and girls for their commitment to serve Mass and our Lord daily during the week or on the weekends.

Since the onset of this activity in 1988, we have enjoyed sharing these things with approximately 600 altar servers.



PHOTOS IN THIS SECTION ARE SUPPLIED BY THE COUNCILS.



St. Patrick's Council 1211, North Platte

The Knights of Columbus St. Patrick's Council 1211, North Platte, recently helped the St. Pat's/Holy Spirit Food Pantry set up new shelving units. The Knights moved all the products out of the way, set up the new shelving units, and restocked it with groceries. The pantry storage is now nicely organized, and it is so much easier for the volunteers to find the stock.



more Around the State



Fr. William A Foster Council 9518, Ralston

Photo: Terry Fletcher (left), Grand Knight of the Fr. William Foster Council 9518, presents a \$3,000 check to Mr. Dave Garland (right), principal of St. Gerald School. The \$3,000 donation will be used to purchase religious textbooks for the school.

St. Joan Of Arc Council 9918, Omaha, continued

Haunted House

Remember those days during your middle school grades when you and your friends would run off on a Friday or Saturday night to the local haunted houses around the city? It was always interesting to see who would go through the houses and who would chicken out.

The Knights of St. Joan of Arc Council 9918 remember those days and wanted to help today's kids enjoy the antics of haunted houses. Since our charter year in 1988, the council has provided a haunted house trip for the middle school students (grades 6,7,& 8) at St. Joan of Arc. In earlier years, we would have as many as 70 to 80 students attend with approximately 10 brother knights as chaperones on two school buses. The council would select the locations and set up the entire trip. We would gather them up 6:30 pm on Sunday night and return approximately 9:00 pm for their parents to pick them up at the school parking lot. There were some houses that would be the favorite of the kids from year to year and we would also attend new ones for some variety. We would charge each student a small fee to help defray the cost of the bus and the haunted houses. Sometimes we would offer hot chocolate and cookies as a treat. As years went by this activity became very popular with the kids and as the month of October would roll around we would be asked, "When is the haunted house trip scheduled?"

The past couple of years our attendance numbers have dropped between 40 to 50 students because our school has lost the 7th and 8th grades. We now offer the outing to 5th and 6th graders plus any 7th and 8th graders that reside in the parish. It is still a fun filled evening and something the kids and fellow brother knights look forward to. Over 18 years the council has entertained approximately 1100 to 1200 students in our community and had a wonderful time doing it.

Around the State Information: Please submit information you want printed. Do not send us just your council's newsletter. **We will not print your meetings' minutes.** What we need is the upcoming important events, results from any that have occurred, and the like. Please send high resolution photos with captions. We cannot publish poor quality pictures. **Please, make sure your information is to-the-point.** Be aware of the date the issue you are writing for will arrive at addresses. You can find a list of deadline and mailing dates on page 2. Thank you.

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St. Vincent de Paul Council 8469, Seward

Pictured above are three generations from the same family who recently made their First Degree in St. Vincent de Paul Council 8469, Seward. New Knights are Bob Ponec (left and grandfather of Joe and father of Mike), Joe Ponec(center and son of Mike and grandson of Bob) and Mike Ponec(right and son of Bob and father of Joe) all from Seward.

Fitzgerald Council 833, Lincoln

Knights of Columbus Fitzgerald Council 833, Lincoln, held their Annual Banquet on June 24, 2007. The decor theme this year was patriotic red, white, and blue. Grand Knight, Marv Burbach, served as the Master of Ceremonies.

The banquet is held to honor and to thank our membership for the time and talents they have contributed towards the charitable endeavors of our council. We also honor a Catholic School Teacher of the Year and a CCD Teacher of the Year. This year the recipients were from Sacred Heart: Teacher of the Year was Sr. Cecilia Walt; CCD Teacher of the Year was Michelle Murrow. Fr. Thomas Walsh, pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, presented the awards and gave a brief synopsis of the work the two recipients have done over the years.

Fr. Joseph Nemece received the Grand Knights Choice Award for all the help he gave in recruiting new members.

This years Family of the Year was awarded to the Jim and Pat Kreifels Family. Not only are Jim's sons and sons-in-law also Knights and their families involved in the council's activities, but Jim's grandsons, that are old enough, are also Knights.

For Knight of the Year, the State Deputy's help was enlisted to present the award. Unknown to the Grand Knight, the trustees, and the council as a whole chose him for this award. He recruited 23 new members to our council. State Deputy, Don Ferneding presented the award, totally surprising our Grand Knight, Marv Burbach.



TIPS FOR TAKING GOOD DIGITAL PHOTOS:

- 1. ALWAYS SET YOUR CAMERA ON THE HIGHEST QUALITY POSSIBLE. YOU NEED QUALITY NOT QUANTITY.**
- 2. NEVER MAKE PRINTS TO SEND TO US. EMAIL THE ACTUAL DIGITAL FILES YOU DOWNLOADED FROM THE CAMERA. (E.G. JPG)**



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- G. Nebraska State Deputy Don Ferneding presents Fitzgerald Council 833's Grand Knight Marvin Burbach with the Knight of the Year Award while Mrs. Jan Burbach looks on.
- H. Grand Knight Marv Burbach presents Fr. Joseph Nemeck with the Grand Knight's Choice Award.



Greg Kozakiewicz, Deputy Grand Knight for Sir Issac Jogues Council 11312, Lincoln (left), poses with Jeremy Parrot, Audrey Parrot (baby), and Amy Parrot.

St. Isaac Jogues Council 11312, Lincoln

Sir Isaac Jogues Council 11312, Lincoln, has started a program to purchase a \$50 savings bond for the first child born on Columbus Day at Saint Elizabeth's Hospital in Lincoln. Pictured above is our 2007 bond winner, Audrey Parrot, and her parents. We also found out that baby Audrey's grandfather is a Knight in Minnesota.



Pictured are Fr. Paul Witt and GK Ken Aylor.

Fr. Shine Council 1966, Plattsmouth

At the last fundraising breakfast, Father Shine Council 1966, Plattsmouth, presented the school Superintendent, Fr. Paul Witt, with a check for \$2,200.00, the proceeds from their Annual Golf Tournament. The Annual Golf Tournament is one of many fundraisers the council conducts throughout the year, bringing golfers from the area together for a fun-filled day of golf and fellowship. In addition to the Golf Tournament, the council conducts monthly breakfasts from September through June, to support organizations, such as Radio Station KVSS, A Woman's Touch Pregnancy Counseling Center, FOCUS, La Leche League, and a variety of other worthy causes.



more Around the State

Msgr. Anton Link Council 1861, Sidney

- I. Boy Scouts Randy Hall (far left) and Kris Jenks accept a donation from Knights of Columbus Msgr. Anton Link Council 1861, Sidney Grand Knight Rich Ostofiek as K of C officer Myron Leypolds looks on. The Knights of Columbus donated \$500 to Scout Troop 90 to help purchase camping equipment.
- J. Megan Leigh Adams of Sidney was selected by the Msgr. Anton Link Council 1861 as a scholarship winner. Megan graduated from Sidney High School and will be attending the University of Nebraska Lincoln to study business and psychology. Megan is a member of St Patrick's Church and volunteers in numerous community services. She is the daughter of Don and Becky Adams.



Wahoo Council 1833, Wahoo
Knights of Columbus Wahoo Council 1833, Wahoo, and Saunders County Right to Life members participated in the Saunders County Fair parade held in August.

K. *Pictured from left: Cody Brousek, Rollie Hohn, Lloyd Fiala, Ray Polacek, and Al Gruenes. On the right, from Saunders County Right to Life: Kelly Luetkenhaus, Skyler Luetkenhaus, Macayla Luetkenhaus, Sophie Custer, and Paul Luetkenhaus.*

L. *Knights pictured include Lloyd Fiala and Ray Polacek (driving truck). Knights Troy Haberman and Rollie Hohn appear at far right.*

During the Bishop Neumann Fund Bus Nite, the Wahoo Knights of Columbus Council #1833 was one of the contributors to the Bus Fund.

M. *Pictured from left: Neumann Principal Fr. Byran Cane, Fr. Townsend, Del Bohac, and Assistant Principal Fr. Sean Timmerman.*



At a recent Wahoo Knights of Columbus Council 1833 meeting, an award was earned by Wahoo Council 1833 for reaching its fraternal insurance quota for the 2006-07 fraternal year.

N. *Will Greitens (left) presents a Founders Award Plaque to Wahoo Council Grand Knight, Al Guenes.*

PHOTOS IN THIS SECTION ARE SUPPLIED BY THE COUNCILS.



MAJOR DEGREES IN NEBRASKA FRATERNAL YEAR 2008

DATE	LOCATION	HOST DD	2ND DEG. TEAM	3RD DEG. TEAM	CONFERRING OFFICER	STATE OFFICER ASSIGNED
1/13/08	Omaha #652	Bruno Kozimor	Omaha	Omaha	Robert Ostdiek	Mike Conrad, State Secretary
1/27/08	Broken Bow #2388	Harry Walahoski	Columbus	Kearney	Gailen Kotrous	John Smith, Found./Invest. Director
2/10/08	Grand Island #10387	Dean Hast	Columbus	Kearney	Gailen Kotrous	Don Ferneding, State Deputy
2/17/08	Bellevue #6192	Mark Borytsky	Omaha	Omaha	Pat Dougherty	Ray Guggenberger, Ex. Secretary
2/17/08	Norfolk #1793	Richard Eilers	Columbus	Kearney	Don Pieper	John Melena, Im. Past State Deputy
3/2/08	Columbus #9264	Alfred Hanus	Columbus	Kearney	Gailen Kotrous	Butch Kreikemeier, State Warden
3/2/08	Omaha #11700	Dennis Humphrey	Omaha	Omaha	Pat Dougherty	Don Ferneding, State Deputy
3/24/08	Lincoln #11280	Stan Kuta	Lincoln	Omaha	Robert Ostdiek	Mike Conrad, State Secretary
3/30/08	Wahoo #1833	Kenneth Oligmueller	Omaha	Omaha	Pat Dougherty	Jim Haiar, State Treasurer
4/13/08	Ralston #9518	Bob Brown	Omaha	Omaha	Robert Ostdiek	Ken Leroy, State Advocate

4TH DEGREE EXEMPLIFICATION SCHEDULE PAGE 20

**PLEASE CHECK THE WEB SITE FOR UPDATES
www.nebraskakofc.org**

IMPORTANT DATES

FORM NO.	DATE	FORM/EVENT	TO
<u>DECEMBER 2007</u>			
	Dec 31	Gifts to KCNSC Foundation for 2007 Tax Year	Foundation Director, John Smith
<u>JANUARY 2008</u>			
	Jan1-Mar 2	Buck-a-Month Club	State Pro-Life Chairs, Mike & Barb Thompson
	Jan 5-6	One Rose One Life Campaign	State Pro-Life Chairs, Mike & Barb Thompson
1728**	Jan 31	Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity	Supreme Council Executive Secretary, Ray Guggenberger District Deputy
4584**	Jan 31	Partnership Profile Report with Special Olympics	Supreme Council Executive Secretary, Ray Guggenberger District Deputy
<u>FEBRUARY 2008</u>			
	Feb 10	Courier Articles Due	Courier Editor
1295	Feb. 15	Semi-Annual Council Audit Report (as of Dec. 31, 2007)	Supreme Council Executive Secretary, Ray Guggenberger District Deputy
	Feb 29	Nominations for Supreme Convention Delegate	Executive Secretary, Ray Guggenberger
<u>MARCH 2008</u>			
	Mar 1	State Per Capita payment	State Secretary, Mike Conrad
	Mar 1	Final State Log Book's Reports (blue)	Program Director, Rich Lowery
	Mar 1	Supreme/State Service Award Nominations	Appropriate State Director
	Mar 1	Resolutions for Annual Convention	State Advocate, Ken Leroy
<u>APRIL 2008</u>			
	Apr 4-6	Tootsie Roll Weekend	State Health Director, Matt Richardson
<u>JULY 2008</u>			
	Jul 15-20	World Youth Day, Sydney, Australia	
	Jul 25-29	28th National Veterans' Wheelchair Games	VAVS Coordinator, John Oltman
<u>SEPTEMBER 2008</u>			
	Sep 27	Day of Reflection	State Church Director, John Nelson

The Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity is due to Supreme NLT January 31, 2008. This report documents our charitable work and keeps the Knights tax exempt. Nebraska has been 100% for the last 12 years; your efforts to continue this tradition are needed again this year.

The Partnership Profile Report with Special Olympics is due to Supreme NLT January 31, 2008. This report documents our charity and time with the Special Olympics. This report determines Nebraska's share of the funds allocated to Special Olympics by our Supreme Council.

**May be filed electronically on Supreme Web site.



Three generations from the Ponec family recently made their First Degree in St. Vincent de Paul Council 8469, Seward. See page 26.

Around the State STARTS ON PAGE 21



CHARITY + UNITY + FRATERNITY + PATRIOTISM
For up-to-date information visit www.nebraskakofc.org

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
NEBRASKA STATE COUNCIL

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Remember the Fun We Had Last Year?

(Even though we lost by a landslide!)

4 more **WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL GAMES** are scheduled for the 2008 season. Join the "Knights, families & friends" team or come to cheer on both sides. Games scheduled in various cities. We guarantee you'll leave smiling.

FIND THE TENTATIVE SCHEDULE ON PAGE 9.

Be sure to check online www.nebraskakofc.org for updates or contact

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lelandweber@hotmail.com

All Knights, their families & friends are invited!

FREE WILL OFFERING. The proceeds benefit the Madonna Magic Basketball Team and Special Olympics.