



The Palmetto State Bulletin



The Newsletter of the South Carolina State Council

Volume 35, Issue 6

December 2023

“Advent and Christmas”

By Deacon Bob Cox, State Spiritual Advisor

Greetings my Brother Knights and families! I pray this note finds you well and that you are ready for the arrival of our Savior, Jesus Christ! I pray that Jesus will be give each one of you His love and protection, His healing touch and His healing presence! Amen!

Pope Francis says this about Advent, “The season of Advent is a time to let ourselves be surprised by God’s mercy and compassion. Advent is a time in which, preparing the nativity display for the Infant Jesus, we learn again who our Lord is, who he [really] is; it is a time to leave behind certain mindsets and prejudices about God and our brothers and sisters; a time in which, instead of thinking about gifts for ourselves, we can give words and gestures of consolation to those who are wounded, as Jesus did with the blind, the deaf, and the lame. Advent, then, is a time for overturning our perspectives... for letting ourselves be surprised by the greatness of God’s mercy. The first condition of Christian Joy is to decentralize from oneself and place Jesus at the center. Jesus is the center. Jesus is the light that gives full meaning to the life of every man and woman who comes into this world.” Great words by our Holy Father! Let us remember them and live them out so we can receive the love and mercy that God has in store for us. I want you to take time today and every day right up to Christmas and beyond to practice Father Toups’ prayer exercise in order to better prepare yourself for Christmas. Fr. Toups suggests, “Find a quiet place to pray today, a place where you will be uninterrupted and without distractions for about fifteen minutes. Close your eyes and ask the Holy Spirit to help you pray. Ask the Lord to bless your mind so that you may know his mysteries. Ask him to bless your ears so that you may hear his voice, to bless your eyes so that you may see his presence, and to bless your lips so that you may speak

his praise. Ask the Lord to bless your heart so that you may know his love. Listen deeply in your heart. Perhaps you will hear a subtle voice within. Perhaps Mary will say something to you on God’s behalf. After you have spent a few moments listening to the voice of God, pray any words of thanksgiving that rise from your heart.” (Fr. Toups, REJOICE! An Advent Pilgrimage into the Heart of Scripture.)

“Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.” (Luke 2:10-11)

On behalf of my wife Sue and myself, we wish you a very Blessed, Holy, and Merry Christmas!

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth.” (John 1:14)

Viva Cristo Rey! De Colores! Vivat Jesus!
Deacon Bob Cox, Spiritual Advisor



SCHEDULE OF STATE WIDE EVENTS

December 2023

16 PSD Luncheon, Summerville, SC

January 2024

6 Proudly Pro-Life March/Rally, Columbia, SC

7 Hispanic Fourth Degree Exemplification, Columbia

February 2024

3 Grand Knight Midyear Meeting, Columbia, SC

10 Fourth Degree Exemplification, Lexington, SC

March 2024

9 State Freethrow Competition, Columbia, SC

April 2024

5-7 State Convention, Spartanburg, SC

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From the State Deputy

Jeffrey Crouch

Brother Knights,

The Christmas season is so very close. Rebecca and I would like to wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and a Happy and

Blessed New Year!

Earlier this month, the District Deputies, along with the State Officers and many State Directors, met for our annual midyear meeting. We had great discussions, shared many success stories from Councils throughout the State, and addressed many questions. This information will be discussed at your upcoming District Meetings and reinforced at the Grand Knight midyear meeting on February 3, 2024, in Columbia. Bishop Jacques Fabre-Jeune joined us and was very pleased to hear the great works that Councils were doing throughout the Diocese. He also once again shared a very positive outlook concerning future Seminarrians.

Order-wide, the month of December proves to be a big month for growth. This is because so many Knights are visible during large Council programs supporting the Parish and Community. One such program is the serving of Christmas Dinner to Soldiers and their families of various National Guard Armories in the Fort Mill, Rock Hill, and Lancaster areas. District 15 and District 10 united together for a common cause under the vision and leadership of District Deputy Jim Carswell. Funds were donated from Councils and Assemblies across the upstate as well as from other local Veteran fraternal organizations to cover the cost of the dinners. Local Councils solicited additional donations of bikes and other toys that were raffled off during the event. In Fort Mill, parents could enter a room and select extra items to be used as gifts for their children. Hundreds of Soldiers and family members were served by this effort. As a result, the units have asked what they can do to help the Knights of Columbus throughout the year in appreciation. This effort is an example of a highly engaging, impactful program that clearly showcases our principles of charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism. I could not have been more proud walking into each site and witnessing all the Councils of District 10 and 15 represented during this event! Congratulations to all involved on an outstanding and successful program!

Over the next couple of weeks, you will receive some very important correspondence concerning our upcoming State Convention and many other items related to that event. I ask Grand Knights to review very carefully and plan to address the Convention in your January Officers meeting. We will discuss further at the Grand Knight meeting on February 3, however, due to the early date of the Convention, you will

State Deputy continued on page 5

From the State Protocol Chairman

Richard A. Gabriel, PSD

Worthy Grand Knights, Faithful Navigators and Members of the State Council:

GREETING YOUR GUESTS

All guests should be greeted by the Grand Knight or Faithful Navigator. The Grand Knight or Faithful Navigator should be assisted by a committee whose function would be to care for the guests' coats, to introduce them to others in attendance and to answer any questions they may have.

Guests should not be left talking among themselves. They usually do not know many of your council or assembly members, and therefore, should not be left alone for any period of time. Various persons should be alternated to converse with and keep company with guests during their visit (not necessarily the same person or persons for the entire visit).

INTRODUCTIONS

Many if not most introductions involve people of unequal or different status or positions. They can differ in rank, in age or in sex, but the result is the same: an introduction usually consists of presenting one person of lesser importance or status to another of greater importance or status.

In introducing a group of people to an individual, avoid running through all the names without a break. It is better to introduce two or three people at a time, so that names can register properly. This is where use of name tags is most effective.

A form of acknowledgement used chiefly when meeting a group is repeating the name of the person to whom you have just been introduced.

Before introducing dignitaries at the head table, be certain names are spelled correctly and proper titles are used. It is a good idea to check the pronunciations of any names to be announced. The order of rank should be observed meticulously.

A person who has been elected but has not yet taken office is called by the title of the office with – “elect” after the title. A Monsignor is not addressed as “Father” and a state officer is not addressed as “Brother.” Remember, if you don't announce the name and title to the gathering, how can they be expected to know who the person is?

Patriot's Corner

Michael Allen, PSD, DM
Master, South Carolina District,
DeSoto Province




“The fetus, though enclosed in the womb of its mother, is already a human being and it is a monstrous crime to rob it of the life which it has not yet begun to enjoy. If it seems more horrible to kill a man in his own house than in a field, because a man’s house is his place of most secure refuge, it ought surely to be deemed more atrocious to destroy a fetus in the womb before it has come to light.” — John Calvin

When I read about disability rights advocates who accept or silently condone abortion, or when I look at pro-life materials and find almost nothing on the disabled, I cringe. Both disability rights and pro-life groups adhere to the same basic principle (that humans have inherent dignity based on who they are, not what they can do) yet they too often disagree.

The two groups should be travelers on a common path. I say this not only because of their common principles but also based on my own experience. As a Knight of Columbus, I believe that a person diagnosed as a part of the intellectually disabled community, has the same inalienable rights as any unborn person. Abortion, and even [euthanasia](#), are becoming more targeted toward the disabled. And this is the greatest way the disabled can be discriminated against. Killing someone due to a disability is akin to participating to erase the disabled community. Not only is this far worse than, say, refusing to build a wheelchair ramp or to provide signage for the sight-impaired, it works toward removing the disabled community from society’s consciousness and thus makes it more difficult to build support for disabled rights. For example, those diagnosed with Down syndrome prenatally are aborted at alarming rates. In the United States, two-thirds of such babies are killed in the womb. That number is low among developed countries: England aborts 77 percent of these babies, Denmark 90 percent and Iceland 98 percent. Down syndrome is easy to diagnose, as it is an extra chromosome. However, soon we will be able to detect the probabilities of many other conditions in the uterus. A company called Genomic Prediction already offers tests for “mental disability” among in vitro fertilization embryos, and it claims that it can detect other intelligence “outliers.” It is easy to imagine that this technology could lead to parents wanting to “discard” those who are predicted to have low I.Q. scores. Also, a current study is investigating the genes of 50,000 families to discover autism genetics, and I can imagine this leading to the search for a prenatal autism test. Referring to selective abortions in these conditions, Pope Francis stated last year, “We do the same as the Nazis to maintain the purity of the race, but with white gloves.”

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PROUDLY PRO-LIFE WEEKEND

JAN | 5th & 6th | 2024

COLUMBIA, S.C.

50th Jubilee



SETH DILLON



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FRIDAY, JAN. 5 | DINNER

- Check-in Begins 5:00 p.m.
- Doors Open 6:00 p.m.
- Dinner Served 6:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, JAN. 6 | MARCH & RALLY

- Line up for the March & Rally at the USC Russell House on Greene Street 11:00 a.m.
- March Begins, Led by the Knights of Columbus 11:30 a.m.
- Rally Begins on the S.C. State House Grounds Noon

**"CHOOSE LIFE SO THAT YOU AND YOUR DESCENDANTS MAY LIVE."
DEUTERONOMY 30:19**

State Deputy continued from page 2

want to make plans prior to your February business meetings. As we conclude the first half of the fraternal year, I pray for continued success in all your programs, activities, and efforts. Please reach out to your District Deputy for any assistance. Remember this weekend, to spend an extra five minutes in prayer, and to ask a man to become a Knight. If done in the right order, there is no stopping us! Semper Fidelis!

Patriot continued from page 3

Brothers, I hope to see you at the South Carolina March for Life on January 6. Let's defend All life!
Mike Allen, PSD, DM
president@columbushope.org

**Form #100
Belongs in
All of These Places**

- Briefcase
- In Your Pocket
- Near Your Phone
- Glove Compartment
- Everywhere You Go!

**SIGN UP A
NEW MEMBER
TODAY!**




KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS



STATE OFFICERS

State Deputy.....	Jeffrey M. Crouch.....	864-430-0938
State Chaplain.....	Fr. Robert F. Higgins.....	843-540-7676
Immediate Past State Deputy.....	Paul V. Burchell, PSD.....	803-983-5004
State Secretary.....	J. Scott Friedman.....	443-243-2260
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Vice Supreme Master.....	Tom Monahan, PSD.....	803-270-7478
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Supreme - TGD.....	David Tebo.....	203-215-8379

DISTRICT DEPUTIES

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District No. 4 (3684, 7062).....	Craig S. Burgess.....	803-439-0468
District No. 5 (6629,8502, 8900, 11910).....	Christopher J. Beumel.....	843-209-7475
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District 13 (6726, 11471, 11991).....	Mark A. Phillips.....	843-209-4187
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District 18 (9475, 10334, 12472).....	Joseph G. Nesbitt.....	843-297-9873

Save the Date

*South Carolina
March For Life
January 6, 2024
USC's Russell House
to the State Capitol*



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Community Director.....	M. Eric Cannon	803-479-5905
Family Director.....	James Carswell	516-851-3675
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Online Membership Chairman.....	Robert Boni.....	843-824-5632
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Faith Director.....	Michael A. Allen, PSD, FDM.....	803-397-7803
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New Council Development Chairman.....	Paul V. Burchell, PSD.....	803-983-5004
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Protocol Chairman	Richard Gabriel, PSD	843-797-6804
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Young Adult Outreach.. ..	Alexander J. Kirby	843-607-3464
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Soccer Challenge Chairman.....	M. Eric Cannon	803-479-5905
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