



# The Palmetto State Bulletin



The Newsletter of the South Carolina State Council

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## “What is Matrimony?”

By Deacon Bob Cox, State Spiritual Advisor

Greetings my Brother Knights and families! I pray that you had a great Christmas and of course a joyous New Year Day! My wife and I certainly did! Christmas with our son and his wife, along with our daughter and her husband and our 6 grandchildren all in one place was especially nice! The Christmas Eve Vigil at my Church was beautiful and full of music and singing!

On January 11th. (the date of this writing), my wife Sue and I will have celebrated our 49<sup>th</sup>. Wedding Anniversary! We are so blessed! If any of you, my Brothers and wives, are celebrating your Wedding Anniversary this month, congratulations to you! Many blessings for you!

Now, to my topic. Matrimony: Sacred Scripture begins with the creation and union of man and woman and ends with “the wedding feast of the Lamb.” (Rev. 19: 7, 9) Scripture often refers to marriage, its renewal in the covenant made by Jesus with His Church. Man and woman were created for each other. By their marriage, the couple witnesses Christ’s spousal love for the Church. One of the Nuptial Blessings in the liturgical celebration of marriage refers to this in saying, “Father, you have made the union of man and wife (male and female) so holy a mystery that it symbolizes the marriage of Christ and the Church.

The Sacrament of Marriage is a covenant, which is more than a contract. Covenant always expresses a relationship between people. The marriage covenant refers to the relationship between the husband (male) and the wife (female), a permanent union of persons capable of knowing and loving each other and God. The celebration of marriage is also a liturgical act, appropriately held in a public liturgy at a Church. Catholics are urged to celebrate their marriage within the Eucharistic

Liturgy (Mass). (L.V.)

Sometimes, the couple chooses to be wed outside of Mass in a Catholic Church, where a Deacon or Priest celebrates the wedding vows, etc. And sometimes, a Catholic and a non-Catholic can be wed in the non-Catholic church and the wedding can be approved by the Diocese.

Why am I bringing up this topic? Because I want you to know that this is the Doctrine of the Catholic Church. Always was, always will be. The Church’s teaching on marriage as a union of one man and one woman in lifelong fidelity and openness to children is not changed by The Doctrine of the Faith’s Declaration *FIDUCIA SUPPLICANS*-On the Pastoral Meaning of Blessings. It is not a step toward the ratification of same-sex unions nor a compromise of the Church’s teaching on these irregular relationships. It is a document on the nature of blessings and the pastoral use of giving informal, spontaneous blessings to individuals seeking to experience God’s healing love and grace in their lives. Several statements from a number of Bishops have come out discussing this Declaration. I suggest you refer to the USCCB website for more information on this DDF Declaration, and contact your local Pastor or Deacon for further information and discussion. God is Good...All the Time! Deacon Bob



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## SCHEDULE OF STATE WIDE EVENTS

### 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



## From the State Deputy

*Jeffrey Crouch*

Brother Knights,

We have made it through the first half of the Fraternal Year. As I have said at many points in the last six months, the efforts of

the Knights of South Carolina in everything that we do have made it a very rewarding six months and I am proud to be able to claim to be one of these Knights!

This month also marks an administrative milestone. I would like to remind all Grand Knights and Faithful Navigators that prior to our meeting on February 3, 2024 in Columbia, Fraternal Surveys are due. Many have already been submitted and I commend those who got an early start! Also coming up are semi-annual audits as well as per capita and liability insurance invoices. We will cover other important administrative tasks at our meeting.

On January 6, 2024, Citizens for Life hosted the Proudly Pro-Life Rally and March led by the Knights of Columbus. I was proud to see many Knights from Councils all over South Carolina brave the weather to stand up for Life! Transfiguration Council 13713 in Blythewood, turned in a count of 55 attendees that included Council Officers, Knights, families, and parishioners. Year after year, Council 13713 has strived to set the bar, often surpassing their own expectations. Thank you to Grand Knight Richard LaVecchia and all of Council 13713 for continuing to make this event a priority!

The next few months will be busy. Lent begins on February 14, 2024. Many Councils have Fish Fry's, Stations of the Cross, and other ministries to help others prepare for the Easter Season. In addition, we have Free Throw Tournaments, recruitment drives, Fraternal Benefit Events, and our State Convention on April 5-7 in Spartanburg. While we will all be busy in our own way, let us remember that Lent is a season of preparation through penance and prayer. All of our works and efforts are accomplished through Jesus Christ for the greater glory of God. Let us each give back to our Lord, by taking time to truly reflect on sacrifice and our own inner conversion of heart as we seek to follow Christ's will more faithfully.

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!

## From the State Protocol Chairman

*Richard A. Gabriel, PSD*

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

### Correspondence

With Council and Assembly installations coming up the following is provided as guidance for you to follow.

When corresponding with others, email is the most effective and efficient means of communication. However, e-mail may not be the most appropriate means of communication in all circumstances. Sometimes typed memos or letters, on letterhead should be utilized and care should be taken to ensure that the letter writer uses proper letter writing techniques.

E-mails also need to be handled with care. Officers need to make certain that their e-mail address is appropriate along with the content contained within the e-mail. Sending an e-mail does not ensure delivery to the intended recipient. E-mail is cost effective and can be an easy way for councils or assemblies to communicate, but it is not a guarantee of participation. E-mail, as with letters, need to be clearly stated and have the main points separated. Make certain that e-mails that contain confidential information are not broadcast to a large group. E-mails cannot replace the personal contact of a phone call or personal conversation.

Modern means of social communications provide members of the Knights of Columbus with powerful tools that can build up your council by promoting its charitable mission and by encouraging members to live out their Catholic faith. The term "social communications" refers to, among other things, the internet, the World Wide Web, and social media. The term "social media" includes blogs and microblogs, social networking sites, and picture and video sharing sites, such as Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, Flickr, and YouTube.

Social communications should be used in a manner consistent with Catholic values and principles of the Order. Members who use social communications should carefully review and observe the Order's Social Communications Guidelines and Policy, which can be found under the Social Communications tab on the Officer's Desk Reference located

in the Officer's Online at [www.kofc.org](http://www.kofc.org). The Guidelines and Policy applies to members and subordinate units of the Order when they choose to identify themselves as members of the Knights of Columbus or to discuss the work of the Knights of Columbus using social communications. Members should be aware that the Laws and official policies of the Knights of Columbus apply to fraternal social communications as they would in any other setting. The reputation of the Order depends upon how members conduct themselves, both online

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## Patriot's Corner

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



*“If you don’t have the heart to forgive, then there’s no reason trying to fight for justice,”*

The reason Christians are suddenly facing persecution is because the progressive values of the secularists are based on individual preferences and not on any moral standards of behavior. Having no standards, such as the Church, allows people to do what pleases them regardless of the impact on others. The Book of Judges from the Bible shows us exactly what happens when people think that way. According to **Judges 21:25**, *“In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as he saw fit.”* Without a standard for moral behavior a society will descend into chaos and destroy itself. Consequently, I believe that secularists do not want to have a standard of behavior, because that may not allow them to do what they choose to do. They do not want to be held accountable to God or anyone else. So, they seek to have the Bible and Christian influence removed from our culture entirely.

There has never been a more urgent time to stand up for your Catholic Values and there has never been a better way to show how much you care or how willing you are to bring these values to the public arena. Fortunately, there is an easy way to do just that. Join the fourth degree of the Knights of Columbus. Next month, on the 10th of February there will be an exemplification of the fourth degree at Corpus Christi Church in Lexington, South Carolina. Again, as in the past when we hold this degree at Corpus Christi, the Country Club of Lexington will pull out all the stops and provide an excellent meal. If you’re interested, see your Grand Knight, Navigator, or email me at [districtmastersc@gmail.com](mailto:districtmastersc@gmail.com) for more information.

In case you haven’t heard the Fourth-Degree exemplification is going through a metamorphosis and will soon be open to family and friends who can be with you from opening procession through the Knighting ceremony. This will be the last opportunity to say you took the degree in the old style. There will be an event planned for the ladies during this degree. More exciting than this is the Honoree for this degree will be none other than Roosevelt Cummings, PSD, FDM, a man that has dedicated his life to the Knights of Columbus. It’s my pleasure to be able to say thank you for all he’s done for me personally and to the order. Very few Catholic men in South Carolina can say that their lives haven’t been affected by Roosevelt. Take your degree or just come out to honor Roosevelt, either way this will be a fantastic event.

**Thanks so much for sticking up for what’s right and just.**  
803-397-7803

**Thank you and God bless you!**







**Knights of Columbus**

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## Columbus HOPE Foundation

Mike Allen, PSD, FDM

President CHF

*“We make a living by what we get,  
but we make a life by what we give.»*

— Winston Churchill

### *Things I have learned in 2023 and things I look forward to in 2024.....*

The big question on everyone’s mind is whether there will be an economic recession in 2024 and what will that mean for fundraising. Discerning the answer is complicated by the mixed messages sent by financial data. Remember: Charitable giving declines by an average of just 0.5% (after inflation) during a recession. Nonprofits should err on the side of caution. Better to be wrong and raise more money than expected than to be overly optimistic and become insolvent.”

The Knights of Columbus still operates its digital fundraising at a level far below their potential, not just because of a lack of ideas or interest in being successful but because of mystification about gift attribution, so we will focus on tracking metrics that are repeatable campaign to campaign rather than holding out for perfect attribution and tracking tools.

During the pandemic, many nonprofits saw both an increase in donors and an increase in average gifts among their existing donors. For whatever reason, these donors decided to give and to give generously. As donor acquisition falls off, successful nonprofits will engage this section of their donor file in a way that drives lifetime value while maintaining year-over-year retention rates. Prediction: action is required now.

In such an ongoing and crowded marketplace for the charitable sector, boards will need to become more and more sophisticated to help their nonprofits through the myriad of challenges they face. This year on, we may see many organizations seek out more board members with diverse skill sets. For instance, nonprofit board members may increasingly have backgrounds in areas like, legal, technology, digital marketing and more.”

Donors today, particularly millennials, are more likely to give if they can see how their donation is making an impact. They want to relate to your cause and will be more likely to give if they can see how doing so will make a difference for a group they care about. Millennials are less committed to specific organizations, and

more committed to the causes they care about.

This means your ask shouldn’t focus on you, it should focus on the lives of the people you’re helping. Stories translate well to social media. Younger donors are more likely to get involved if they see your message reinforced by their peers.”

Historically, we have seen high-net-worth philanthropists receive recognition for their major gifts to nonprofit organizations across various news platforms and social media. However, out of the nearly \$160 billion in donations from individuals contributed in 2022, only 5% can be attributed to that donor base. This means that most donations made were from everyday individuals, who should also be considered philanthropists.

“These everyday philanthropists have consistently provided many funds to nonprofits over the last several years, and that trend is only expected to continue. And, because of this, we will see more and more nonprofits publicly celebrate those donors and their gifts (regardless of their size) as well as engage with them in real-time — whether it be through social media or even their websites in the next year and those to come. By acknowledging these contributions and showing the impact they are having on causes, nonprofits will be able to further engage everyday donors and ultimately create a steady funnel of donations that will enable them to sustain their work. Message Personalization and Digitalization, donors appreciate when their giving history and preferences are recognized. With only so many hours in a day and large-dollar donations on the decline, it’s important for fundraisers to be supported with technologies that they can utilize to personalize communications to better secure funding, relay mission impact, and gain supporters. More information about our future at the July 13, 2024 “Drive Meeting” in Columbia



STATE OFFICERS

State Deputy.....	Jeffrey M. Crouch.....	864-430-0938
State Chaplain.....	Fr. Robert F. Higgins.....	843-540-7676
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State Warden.....	Guadalupe Jimenez.....	843-338-9632
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Vice Supreme Master.....	Tom Monahan, PSD.....	803-270-7478
General Insurance Agent.....	Robert Boni, Jr.....	843-824-5632
Supreme - TGD.....	David Tebo.....	203-215-8379

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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 15 (12366, 14475, 14765).....	James Carswell.....	516-851-3675
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District 17 (7129, 15960).....	J. Christopher Pate.....	864-337-1707
District 18 (9475, 10334, 12472).....	Joseph G. Nesbitt.....	843-297-9873

**Protocol continued from page 2**

and in person. Accordingly, members using social communications should remember that they are expected to conduct themselves as Catholic gentlemen, which at a minimum requires that any material posted online respect human dignity and maintains a culture of respectful dialogue and friendship. Correspondence should be addressed to the individual, using his full, proper name (not his nickname), followed by his proper title, whether he be a Knight of Columbus, a Priest or a businessperson. If an individual has more than one title, the highest-ranking title is always used. Names of civic and religious individuals are prefixed by such forms as His Excellency, The Honorable, Reverend Father, etc. Prefix titles of Mr., and Mrs. or Ms. are omitted when the individual has another official title. If he has no title, Mr., Mrs., or Ms. should always be used as a prefix to his or her name. When addressing an individual with an official title of an organization, the name of the organization should always be shown on the

next line.

In the event that you have a close working relationship with any officer, your letter need not be so formal. However, you first must acknowledge the office he holds. The salutation would then be “Worthy Grand Knight and dear Brother Bill.” The individual’s full proper name and title are always shown on both the letter and the envelope.

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