



# The Palmetto State Bulletin



The Newsletter of the South Carolina State Council

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## “Precious Blood”

*By Deacon Bob Cox, State Spiritual Advisor*

Greetings my Brother Knights and families! I hope you are enjoying your summer as you relax a little bit or as you go on your vacation and /or travel. July is here and almost half over! Wow!

Speaking of July, in case you have forgotten my Brothers, July is dedicated to the Precious Blood of Jesus. The feast of the Precious Blood of our Lord was instituted in 1849 by Pope Pius IX. However, the devotion is as old as Christianity! In 96 AD, Pope St. Clement I wrote, “Let us fix our gaze on the blood of Christ and realize how truly precious it is, seeing that it is poured out for our salvation and brought the grace of conversion to the whole world.”

Let’s pray the Prayer of St. Gertrude: “Eternal Father, I offer You the most Precious Blood of Your Divine Son, Jesus, in union with the Masses said throughout the world today, for all the Holy Souls in Purgatory, for all sinners everywhere, for sinners in the Universal Church, those in my own home and within my family. Amen.”

In my researching about the Precious Blood of Christ, I came across several Novenas and Chaplets covering this most important topic! There is the “Chaplet of the Most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ” and the “Chaplet of the Precious Blood.” Along with these there is a novena entitled, “Novena to the Precious Blood of Jesus.” These are all prayers that you can recite in the comfort of your home or at a church gathering...men’s club or ladies guild, or at your Council meeting.

According to a Catholic writer from the Holy Cross Family Ministries, Elizabeth Leon, she offers a 5-plan system to deepen our devotion to the Precious Blood of Christ and to use this system to pray for our families and the whole world. Her plan is as follows:

Meditate on Sacred Scripture:

Ephesians 1:7  
1 John 1:7

Ephesians 2:13  
Hebrews 10:19-20

Pray the St. Gertrude Prayer for the souls in Purgatory and for our families.

Pray the Novena of Confidence to the Sacred Heart, you can have your intentions protected by the Precious Blood.

Pray at the moment of consecration when the priest raises the chalice: “Precious Blood of Jesus, cover us and the whole world.”

Pray the Litany of the Precious Blood, approved by Pope John XXIII, in 1960. The Litany goes like this: “The Precious Blood of Jesus is the price paid for our redemption, the source of our justification, and the formulation of our hope. It flows freely from the pierced side of Christ and is offered again every day through the holy sacrifice of the Mass. May we cherish our salvation and the hope of eternal glory.”

Brothers, enjoy your summer. Enjoy your families. Enjoy your faith. Enjoy the protection of the Precious Blood of Jesus, it is your SALVATION! Viva Cristo Rey, Deacon Bob Cox.



## SCHEDULE OF STATE WIDE EVENTS

### July 2023

- 8 – Columbus Hope Drive Workshop
- 14-16 – DD Organizational Meeting/State Installations

### August 2023

- 12 – Fourth Degree Exemplification – Charleston, SC
- 13 – Blessed Michael McGivney Mass – Charleston, SC

## Inside This Issue

“Precious Blood”	1
Schedule of State Wide Events	1
From the State Deputy	2
Columbus HOPE Foundation	2
Patriot’s Corner	3
The Boni Agency	3
State Officers and District Deputies	7
State Directors and Committee Chairmen	8



## From the State Deputy

*Jeffrey Crouch*  
Brother Knights,

Before we get ahead of ourselves, I wish to take a moment to personally thank our Immediate Past State Deputy Paul Burchell for two truly magnificent years of hard work and leadership. The reports are in, and it appears South Carolina has achieved the Pinnacle Award for the second consecutive year! Rebecca and I are truly thankful to have the mentorship of Paul and Judy available to us as we have our sights set on a threepeat!

While I was in New Haven, CT for my own installation, the Supreme Knight highlighted the Knights of Columbus Mission, which is: The Knights of Columbus empowers Catholic men to live their faith and serve their family, parish, community, and country. He reminded us we treat our members as brothers; we foster a high-performing culture that puts people first; we offer high-quality products and programs people value, supporting their spiritual, insurance, financial, and charitable needs; and we continually assess our members' needs and adapt to them.

This year, as we embark on this mission together, you will hear the theme "Zeal to Further." Think of zeal as a strong action-oriented desire to advance in the direction of righteousness. Zeal puts love into action and strengthens the resolution to progress in virtue and sanctity. "To further" represents growing in your own spiritual life and faith, growing your parish and the Church, and even growing our Order as we invite Catholic men to embark on a path of spiritual growth. To that end, I am pleased to report that South Carolina has been selected to participate in the next wave of COR. COR focuses on men's formation in our faith. This is meant to be parish wide. This is not to compete or replace any "men's groups" that are already attempting some sort of faith formation, but to compliment or enhance them. Due to the delicate nature of implementing this properly, we are sending two Knights to be trained in New Haven by the team that has developed COR. To further help with implementation, there are three new Faith Programs that will be debuted at the Supreme Convention. These programs are all designed to be done as part of COR. No matter what has come our way in the last few years, our Councils and their leaders have persevered! I believe we will truly live up to all the expectations as we work together to make this Fraternal Year the best one yet! 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!

## Columbus HOPE Foundation

*Mike Allen, PSD, FDM*

### Presidents Report 2023

*Intellectual Disabilities is a life issue.*

**Suddenly, a new power was thrust into the hands of ordinary people—the power to decide what kind of life is worth bringing into the world.**

Make no mistake, Columbus HOPE Foundation is not an advocacy organization, However as members of the Knights of Columbus, we cannot sit idly, and watch atrocities being performed while the world searches for ways to justify the eradication of intellectual disabilities.

Due to abortions, only one or two babies with Down syndrome are born each year in Iceland, sparking debate over prenatal testing for 'genetic abnormalities.'

In the United States each year, more than 6,000 babies with Down syndrome are born, according to the National Down Syndrome Society.

However, almost none are born in Iceland.

That's because nearly 100 percent of women in Iceland who receive a positive test for Down syndrome choose to terminate the pregnancy.

Iceland isn't alone in having high termination rates.

In Denmark, 98 percent of pregnancies with a Down syndrome diagnosis are terminated.

In France, its 77 percent, and in the United States its 67 percent.

In Iceland, the law permits abortions after 16 weeks if the fetus has a deformity.

Experts suggest that requiring women be informed that prenatal testing for Down syndrome is available. Many countries are suggesting (or pushing) them to terminate a Down syndrome pregnancy.

Eric Scheidler, the executive director of Pro-Life Action League, believes that parents-to-be are pressured by health-care professionals to terminate pregnancies with a "troubling diagnosis."

"Parents are being urged to abort their children," he said. "There's really not a fair presenting of options being offered to parents."

He added, "Having gotten to know several people with Down syndrome in my life, I am horrified by the thought that Western society, is rejecting these children."

In the U.S., numerous states have attempted to restrict prenatal testing for Down syndrome, spina bifida, or more generally, "genetic abnormalities," through legislation.

In 2016, the Missouri State Senate introduced a ban on abortions based on prenatal testing that showed a diagnosis of

**HOPE continued on page 4**

# Patriot's Corner



Daniel Barton, PSD  
Master, South Carolina District, DeSoto  
Province

I hope this edition of the Palmetto Bulletin finds you and your family well.

On behalf of the District, we owe the retiring officers of the 30 Assemblies in South Carolina our thanks and gratitude for the faithful manner in which they have served during the past year. In the name of the members of the South Carolina District, I thank you for the thorough and efficient manner in which you have performed your duties and hope you will continue as active and interested members of the Fourth Degree.

This past Fraternal year was a success. We exemplified 109 new Sir Knights and will have six (6) Star Assemblies. In addition, South Carolina is one of the only Districts in the order with 100% submittal of all administrative forms. On the Program side, 19 Assemblies submitted the To Be A Patriot Award, and 26 of the Assemblies submitted the Civic Award Application.

As July is the first month of our new Fraternal Year, I encourage everyone to get off to a fast start! Like in sports, our chances for success increase exponentially when we get off to a fast start and are not playing catch up. This year's goal is to have a 40% conversion of new Third Degree Knights to Fourth Degree Sir Knights. As an Assembly or Council fraternal leader, you can make this a reality within the State. The 91st South Carolina Exemplification will be Saturday, August 12, 2023, at the Cathedral of St John the Baptist in Charleston, SC. This is the first time within the history of the Knights of Columbus in South Carolina that a Fourth Degree Exemplification will occur at our Cathedral. The Most Reverend Jacques Eric Fabre-Jeune, C.S., Bishop of Charleston, is the honoree for this Exemplification. If you want to become a Sir Knight by going through your exemplification, please get in touch with your local Assembly Faithful Navigator.

Fraternally Yours,  
Daniel




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**HOPE continued from page 3**

Down syndrome.

The bill was defeated.

**According to Planned Parenthood Advocates of Missouri, anti-abortion legislators wrote that bill specifically about Down syndrome as an attempt to make it “a wedge issue in efforts to ban abortion altogether.”**

“This is about politics and taking away women’s ability to make personal, private, and often complicated decisions,” Planned Parenthood Advocates of Missouri stated in a fact sheet. “This bill does nothing to address the serious underlying concerns about discrimination against people with disabilities.”

Elsewhere, bills attempting to restrict abortion after a diagnosis of Down syndrome or other genetic abnormalities also failed to pass in South Dakota, Indiana, Ohio, New Hampshire, Oklahoma, and Texas.

Advocates for people with Down syndrome are concerned by the news out of Iceland.

Sara Hart Weir, MS, president of the National Down Syndrome Society, said her organization was “deeply concerned” by the trend.

Weir also shared Scheidler’s view that parents-to-be are not being properly informed by healthcare professionals about what life with a child with Down syndrome could be like.

“Women — even in the United States of America — are not receiving accurate, up-to-date information about Down syndrome from their healthcare providers — a vital issue we have advocated for, for many, many decades,” she said. Weir said people with Down syndrome need to be accepted as part of society.

“In the U.S., people with Down syndrome continue to exceed expectations,” she said. “Individuals with Down syndrome live independently, go to college, work in competitive jobs, get married, live to their full potential, and lead fulfilling lives.”

**Where does this leave us?**

In a few minutes we are going to talk about fund raising and some of the lessons learned in the post COVID world. The best defense as they say is a strong and well-planned offense. Whatever your council does for your Intellectual Disabilities fund raiser, I urge you to do it to the best of your abilities. The better the life that we can make for our Disabled citizens, the more likely parents, healthcare workers and the pro-choice ideologists are to make a well informed and wise choice for the future.

**Post COVID recovery**

Eighty-one percent of Americans say they donated money to a religious or other charitable organization in the past year, and 56% volunteered time to such an organization. After

dipping in April 2020 during the early stages of the pandemic, charitable donations have rebounded and are essentially back to the level measured pre-pandemic. Volunteer activity also dropped in 2020 but, in contrast to charitable giving, remains lower than it was in pre-pandemic surveys. While lower today than in recent years, the rate of volunteering has been at its current level in the past, most notably during the Great Depression.

With respect to donations, the bounce back from 2020 appears to be confined mostly to secular giving. Forty-four percent of Americans say they gave money to religious organizations in the past year, unchanged from 2020, which was the lowest in the Gallup poll’s trend by a significant margin. Meanwhile, 74% say they gave money to another charitable cause, up from 64% a year ago and essentially the same as the 75% who did so in 2013.

Over time, as formal Church membership has declined, so have donations to religious organizations. The 44% of U.S. adults donating to religious organizations nearly matches the 47% belonging to a church, synagogue, mosque or temple.

Volunteering is not back to pre-pandemic levels for either religious organizations or other charities. Thirty-five percent of Americans report volunteering for a religious organization in the past year, down slightly from 38% in 2020 and well below the 44% from 2017. The current figure is the lowest since Gallup’s trending, although not meaningfully different from 37% readings in 2009.

**The Bottom line**

Amid economic uncertainty and restrictions on public activity in the initial stages of the pandemic, Americans’ charitable activity declined. More than a year later, monetary charitable donations are mostly back to their pre-pandemic levels, while volunteerism still lags.

**By the numbers**

Columbus HOPE, by all measurable standards, is back from the pandemic. Last year your councils brought in \$313, 846.54 or 136% of the expected goal. Bringing our Grand Total to \$10,495,209 for our 46 years. However....

Sometimes when the Knights of Columbus fix a problem on one hand, they may create a bit of a concern on the other. The affiliate member program and online membership totals a stifling 1835 members that come off the billable rosters of the councils. CHF stands to lose a total of \$137, 625 in goal potential this year. My hope is that we can contact these members and recap some of that loss, more information on that to follow.

Please look to the State Bulletin for updates.

Michael A. Allen,  
Columbus HOPE Foundation

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