



# The Palmetto State Bulletin



The Newsletter of the South Carolina State Council

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January 2023

## “Novena Life”

*By Deacon Bob Cox, State Spiritual Director*

Greetings my Brother Knights and families! A belated Happy New Year! I hope some of your New Year’s resolutions would be to be more spiritual, more faith filled, and more prayerful. Maybe these resolutions will give you more of a possibility to keep to them, compared to some others. I don’t make off the wall resolutions, about all I make are resolutions concerning my being a humble Deacon, a good steward of the Church; being a loving husband, father, and papa! Three weeks into the year and so far, so good!

I know that I have discussed praying and praying novenas in the past. So here we go again, another discussion on the subject and if I am preaching to the choir, bear with me, please! Brothers, as I have pointed out in the past, there are over 700 novena prayers and according to the USCCB there are 365 powerful novenas to pray for. So, for us, a novena is a term designating a spiritual devotion consisting of the recitation of a set form of prayer normally for nine days, making a petition for graces by honoring the Virgin Mother Mary, the saints, and/or Jesus, asking for divine intervention on our behalf.

A novena can be made at any time of the week, month, or year, however most novenas are set up with a feast day in mind. Keeping that in mind, novenas are prayed for nine days before a specific feast day or solemnity, the ninth day of the novena ends on the day before the feast day. Then you can have some sort of celebration on the feast day.

In a recent email, State Deputy Paul Burchell had mentioned a novena that runs from January 19<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>. and is called the “9 Days for Life Novena.” Brother State Deputy Burchell indicates that January 23<sup>d</sup>. is the “Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children” in the middle of this Novena.

SD Burchell indicates for us to visit [www.9daysforlife.com](http://www.9daysforlife.com) to sign up and [www.kofc.org/novenaforlife](http://www.kofc.org/novenaforlife) for more resources to host your councils own Novena for Life. A very good idea! There are a lot of novenas that are coming upon us fast! For example, the Novena for St. Angela Marici (Jan. 18-27); St. Thomas Aquinas Novena (Jan. 19-28); the 9 Days for Life Novena; St. John Bosco Novena (Jan22-31); St. Bridgid of Ireland Novena (Jan 23-Feb 1); St. Blaise Novena (Jan 25-Feb 3); Our Lady of Lourdes Novena (Feb 2-Feb 11); and St. Valentine Novena (Feb 5-14), just to name some of them! Another one of my functions as a Deacon is that I have been assigned as the Spiritual Director for the Legion of Mary Praesidium---Mary, Mother of Christians---in Florence at my parish, St. Ann. Every year, our small group of Legionaries celebrates the Our Lady of Lourdes Novena at St. Ann’s with daily Mass, or a Communion Service or a prayer service as we pray the Novena to Our Lady of Lourdes. On the Feast Day, after holy Mass, we have a reception in the Life Center and enjoy some food and conversation with the attendees of the Novena and/or the Mass. It is always a great way to celebrate the visitation at Lourdes.

I hope you get the idea that I am trying to give to you. PRAY!! As St. Paul has told us, “Pray constantly...always and for everything giving thanks in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God the Father.” He also said, “Pray at all times in the Spirit, with all prayers and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance making supplication for all the saints. For we have not been commanded to work, to keep watch and to fast constantly, but it has been laid down that we are to pray without ceasing. This tireless fervor can only come from love.”

As always, Blessings! Deacon Bob Cox

## Inside This Issue

“Novena Life”	1
Schedule of State Wide Events	1
From the State Deputy	2
Patriot’s Corner	3
The Boni Agency	3
From the State Protocol Chairman	4
Columbus HOPE Foundation	4
Knights of Columbus Serve Holiday Dinner to Fort Jackson Troops	5
State Officers and District Deputies	6
State Directors and Committee Chairmen	7

## SCHEDULE OF STATE WIDE EVENTS

- January 2023**
- 20 National Right to Life March, Washington, DC
- February 2023**
- 4 Grand Knight Midyear Meeting – Columbia, SC
- 18 Fourth Degree Exemplification – Aiken, SC
- March 2023**
- 11 State Free-throw Shoot – Columbia, SC
- April 2023**
- 14-16 State Convention – Columbia, SC
- May 2023**
- 20 Fourth Degree Exemplification – Pawleys Island, SC



## From the State Deputy

*Paul Burchell*

Happy New Year Brother Knights, So, how are you doing with your new year's resolutions so far? As for myself, I must admit that, as I write this on January 2<sup>nd</sup>, I am only at 50% of keeping mine. So, I have to ask myself, was I serious and committed when I made

these resolutions? Were the resolutions meaningful and would they provide purpose to my life? Did I make the right resolutions? Fortunately, it is still very early in the year, so it is not too late to refocus and perhaps readjust and maybe even change my resolutions.

I know some folks that don't make resolutions because they say then never keep them – things like losing weight, getting more exercise, etc. This got me to thinking, what are some resolutions that could really benefit me as well as the people around me? Of course, the answer was there all the time, but I failed to notice. A short list would include things like spending a couple of minutes at the end of each day to thank God for the many blessings in my life; reaching out to an estranged family member and building a relationship with him or her; making it a point to attend Eucharistic Adoration at least once each month; contacting a Brother Knight I've not seen in a while; and, letting my Grand Knight know that I want to help with one of the many Faith in Action Programs of my council. I'm convinced that if I am successful in keeping these, a year from now they will have become habits and my life will be much more meaningful. So how about you?

Here is one resolution that I would encourage everyone reading this to commit to. As we know, prayer is the most powerful weapon in our arsenal. I'm asking you to join thousands of Catholics and Knights to pray for life during the bishops' annual 9 Days for Life Novena January 19-27, 2023. Visit [www.9daysforlife.com](http://www.9daysforlife.com) to sign up and visit [www.kofc.org/novenaforlife](http://www.kofc.org/novenaforlife) for more resources to host your Novena for life. What a great way to start off the new year!

As I did in my article last January (has it been a year already?) I want to share with you the state's progress in reaching our Circle of Honor (COH) goals. The format for our requirements this year are different than in the past in that there are four **required** categories and seven **optional** categories. In order to achieve the COH the jurisdiction must achieve everything in the required categories and at least two of the optional categories. Reaching our goal in four of the optional requirements qualifies us for once more achieving the Pinnacle Award.

To begin with I want to thank all of you for your efforts and

to let you know that the success we've experienced during the first half of the fraternal year has surpassed where we were last year at this time. In fact, as of the end of December, South Carolina was number 2 out of 75 jurisdictions in the Order in COH membership requirements. The only one ahead of us is Ukraine. A special thank you and shout out to all those councils who are making things happen and keeping Blessed Michael McGivney's dream alive in South Carolina. As of the end of December the following councils have already reached or surpassed their fraternal year membership goal: 5194, 7122, 8900, 8980, 9576, 12263, 16903, 17760, and 17824. Additionally, Council 8980 has already completed two fraternal benefits events. Here is our progress so far. The first number reflects the quota at the start of the year, while the second shows where we stand at the end of December.

### Required Categories:

1. Membership: 400/**301**
2. Under 50-Year-Old Intake: 102/**171**
3. Fraternal Benefits Events (# of councils who must complete at least 2 during the fraternal year: 29/**1**)
4. Faith Formation (Holy Hours or combination of Holy Hours and assisting in planning diocesan Eucharistic procession): 3/**2**

### Optional Categories:

1. New Council Development: 2/**0**
2. Star Councils: 11/
3. Membership Drives: 43/**28**
4. Council Engagement (membership recruitment): 51/**44**
5. Charitable impact (to be calculated after 1728s submitted due 1/31/23):  
Charitable \$: 1,079,077/  
Charitable Hours: 511,225/  
1728 Reporting (# councils reporting): 51/
6. Round Tables: 8/**12**
7. Safe Environment (number of councils fully compliant as of 5/1/23): 23/

As you can see Brothers, our success is being measured in several different areas but I'm confident that we are up to the task. We are off to a great start; however, we cannot let up on the gas now. Let's keep the momentum that has been building since July, going well into January and through the remainder of the fraternal year.

Finally, please mark a few very important dates on your calendar: January 20, 2023 – National Right to Life March in DC; February 4, 2023 – Grand Knight Midyear Meeting, St. John Neumann School in Columbia; February 18, 2023 – Fourth Degree Exemplification, St. Mary's Help of Christians Catholic Church in Aiken; February 22, 2023 – Ash Wednesday; March 11, 2023 – State Free Throw Championship, Cardinal Newman HS, Columbia; and, April 14-16, 2023 – 102<sup>nd</sup> State Convention, Embassy Suites – Greystone in Columbia.

Fraternally, Paul

# Patriot's Corner



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

## Brothers

I want to thank all who participated in the South Carolina Citizens for Life March. While we had our first group of protesters this year, your poise and civility are to be commended.

As a reminder, we will be holding a District Meeting in conjunction with the State Council's Grand Knight Midyear meeting on February 4, 2023. The meeting is at St. John Neumann Catholic School, 721 Polo Road, Columbia, SC 29223. The doors open at 8:30 AM, and the meeting will begin at 9:00 AM.

Our 89th South Carolina Exemplification will be on February 18, 2023. We encourage you to continue promoting all our brothers in the Third Degree who still need to take their Fourth Degree to attend to become a Sir Knight.

Unfortunately, I must reiterate the Order's Laws and Rules Governing the Fourth Degree concerning the current Official Dress Uniform and Regalia. Per section 38, the official dress for the Fourth Degree shall be the official navy blue blazer with the fourth degree emblem, official gray trousers (no cuffs), official fourth degree necktie, and an official black beret with the fourth degree metal badge over the appropriate colored patch of office, plain white dress shirt (no French cuffs - no button down collar shirts), black socks and plain black shoes, the official fourth degree lapel pin (#PG-113), the incumbent's medal of office, and Past/Former miniature medals above the left pocket. The official Color Corps Regalia (Honor Guard or Color Guard) is the same as noted above, with the following additions: Service baldric, sword, and white gloves. This official dress was effective as of midnight on June 30, 2019. Again, it should go without having to be said, but we would expect all members of the Color Corps and as Catholic gentlemen to comply with this policy.

Fraternally Yours,  
Daniel




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## From the State Protocol Chairman

Ronald G. Povero, PSD, FM

### PROTOCOL

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

#### DIGNITARIES AT MEETINGS

When Priests, State Officers, District Masters, District Deputies, or special guests are present at a meeting they should be accorded due recognition for the office or position they hold. They should always be seated in a place of honor.

If a Priest, State Officer, District Master, District Deputy, or special guest should arrive while a meeting is in progress; the presiding officer raps the gavel three times for all to stand and instructs the Warden to escort the guest to the station of the presiding officer. The presiding officer then offers a seat of honor to the guest.

However, a State Officer, Vice Supreme Master or District Master or District Deputy, when present at his home council or assembly, need not be specifically recognized unless he has been invited to attend in his official capacity or requests to be so recognized. This will allow the officer to engage in the regular business of his home council or assembly without involving the position he holds.

When a General Agent or Field Agent is present at a meeting, he should be treated as a guest. He should be seated and introduced with the dignitaries.

*Ronald G. Povero, PSD, FM, Protocol Chairman*

## Columbus HOPE

Mike Allen, PSD, FDM

**I'm starting to think this world is just a place for us to learn that we need each other more than we want to admit.**- Richelle E. Goodrich

*A new year marks a new beginning and time for leaders to return to what matters most.*

In keeping with the holiday season, most of us spent the past few weeks celebrating with family, enjoying the company of old friends, and making new ones. It was a joyous time as we retold old stories and reflected on the past year and state of the world.

With many families, conversations touched on the terrible circumstances in the Ukraine, the COVID-19 situation in China, the massive snowstorm in Buffalo, the changing nature of work and, of course, the rising cost of living. Being a celebratory time with children, we also talked about the RSV virus that has affected tens of thousands of young kids.

As I sat listening and, of course, participating in these discus-

sions, and as a leader in the Knights of Columbus, I began to think about how many families affected by intellectual disabilities are now able to celebrate because of the great work of the Columbus Hope Foundation and the agencies they support. How many are flourishing because of the therapies our organizations can provide? How many are still alive because of the great care provided by our extended partnerships?

We should all be proud to be in the business of charity and appreciate the special responsibility and obligation we have. This special role was so evident during the height of the pandemic — and is also evident in the work done every day by our partners.

There is power in the ordinary. In a fast-moving, loud, and polarized world, normalcy can sometimes seem radical. This year, leaders should embrace it. Keep focus on the everyday work that can too often go unsung. Help ensure the high value of South Carolina's intellectually disabled by continuing your support of the moments in which lives are improved, health is restored, and suffering is spared.

As we begin a new year, Catholic charitable leaders must elevate the good that occurs every day with an attitude of pride, optimism, resilience, and innovation. Normalcy does not mean status quo or resistance to change. It is about keeping focus, staying the course, and putting in the work. We must not grow overwhelmed by the dark shadows caused by the world's instability, the toxicity of our politics, or the gloom and negativity so often highlighted by social media and the news.

We must deal with reality of course, but we must not be distracted from doing what we know is important and right — enhance equitable access for our states most vulnerable, improve the quality of their lives, and focus on our ability to raise funds to support these citizens.

The coming year will be a test of our leadership as we adapt and transform our organization to a new post-COVID world. There is a leader's commitment beyond the walls of their organization. We as leaders have a special and larger responsibility, not just internally to our organizations but externally to the broader community. Like it or not, what we say and do has influence. How we use that influence in the coming year is important.

We must, in my view, be willing to take public positions and become more responsible advocates for the things that truly matter. All of these are in line with the health and wellbeing of our constituents:

- The importance of charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism in the setting of community. We are all interdependent so we must highlight our common and shared interests.
- The imperative nature of civility and decency in our

**HOPE continued on page 5**

**HOPE continued from page 4**

public discourse.

- The need to build trust and promote the importance of resilience and responsibility, not entitlement.

Certainly, we run the risk that controversy and criticism may result from our broader engagement. But that is the price of leadership. We must, at all costs, stay true to our Catholic identity.

Mike Allen, PSD, FDM  
President CHF



# Knights of Columbus Serve Holiday Dinner to Fort Jackson Troops

On the day after Christmas, while some are at home enjoying the last days of the holiday season with their friends and family, others are not able to do so.

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Author: Peyton Lewis

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COLUMBIA, S.C. — Since 2013, the Knights of Columbus Fourth-Degree Assembly has been serving a holiday dinner to the troops of Fort Jackson who do not get to go home for the holidays.

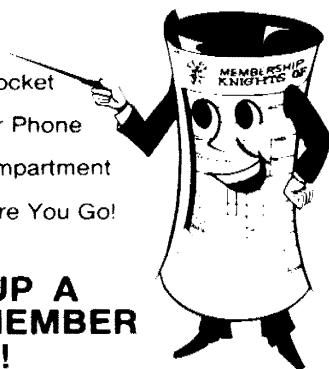
The Knights of Columbus is a Catholic service organization dedicated to charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism. Those in the Fourth Degree typically exemplify the fourth pillar of patriotism by supporting troops or being veterans themselves. On the day after Christmas, the Knights used their fourth-pillar value to serve dinner to more than 100 troops like Anna Baecker at Our Lady of the Hills Catholic Church in Columbia.

“My family is Hispanic, we’re from Honduras and we love Christmas so we always do a huge party for Christmas with the whole family... It’s sad because I really want to see my parents in person. I FaceTime them but it’s not the same thing,” Baecker said with a frown.

Despite not being home, a show of community support provided them with that sense of family, complete with spaghetti dinner and new friends.

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