



The Palmetto State Bulletin

The Newsletter of the South Carolina State Council



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February 2021

“Lenten Planning”

By Deacon Bob Cox, State Spiritual/Faith Director

Greetings Brother Knights and families! I pray all is well with everyone and hope you have been able to get your COVID-19 vaccination shot(s) or will be doing so soon. Sue and I received our first vaccine shot on February 10, 2021. We can get our second vaccine shot on March 2nd., 3rd., or 4th. We have not had any problems, except our arms were sore where they administered the shot.

I would like to emphasize some of my Lenten Journey message that your DD's should have forwarded on to the GK's and therefore to the council members: we should make Lent a penitential season. We should forgive those who have hurt us, ask forgiveness from those we have hurt and of course, ask forgiveness from God for our sins. Lent is known for people to 'give up' something that would be of consequence to our daily life. I challenge you to PRAY MORE...PRAY THE ROSARY EVERYDAY! Come out on the Fridays of Lent and PRAY the Ways of the Cross with your fellow parishioners. Lead the Rosary before every Mass during Lent (with the Pastor's approval). I challenge you to call your parents every Sunday during Lent and just thank them for loving you. And perhaps you can fast for Lent as Pope Francis suggests:

- *Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
- *Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
- *Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
- *Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- *Fast from worries and have trust in God.
- *Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
- *Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
- *Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.
- *Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.

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*Fast from grudges and be reconciled.

*Fast from words and be silent so you can listen, especially to hear God.

Please, make every effort to attend Holy Week services and to go to Confession. Be prayerful.

May God bless you with a genuine, holy, spiritual 40 days of Lent! Viva Cristo Rey!

Deacon Bob Cox



SCHEDULE OF STATE WIDE EVENTS

February 2021

TBD	District Free Throw Championship
20	SC District Fourth Degree 83rd Exemplification - St Gregory the Great - Bluffton, SC

March 2021

6	SC Catholic Men's Conference - Cardinal Newman School - Columbia, SC
14	State Free Throw Championship - Cardinal Newman School, Columbia SC (Tentative)
17	St. Patrick's Day
29	Founders Day

April 2021

1	Holy Thursday
2	Good Friday
4	Easter
16 - 18	100th Annual State Convention - Virtual
23 - 25	Southeastern Lieutenancy EOHSJ Annual Meeting & Investiture - Birmingham, AL
May 2021	



From the State Deputy

Daniel Barton

Brother Knights,

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

It's hard to believe, it has been nearly a year since the news of COVID-19 first broke. Like the generation of brother knights who came before us, who had to face the hardships of another worldwide pandemic, as well as two World Wars, we are unable to choose this challenge we face today. However, the only thing we can determine is how we choose to face those challenges.

My fellow fraternal leaders, our positions are not merely a job or title for a year for two. Instead, it is a call, or vocation to do our very best to serve our fellow man. It is the way of life of a steadfast man who puts his Catholic Faith into practice. We do the work of the Order not because it's easy or for an attaboy; rather, because it's hard and it's the right thing to do. We are the good Samaritan to those we encounter every day. In the upcoming months, we will emerge from this pandemic and we must be ready to serve our councils, communities and local parishes. Therefore, we must continue to build upon the strong groundwork established by the previous generation of knights in order to preserve it for future generations of knights. Yes, this will require membership growth of our Order within each council. While some councils throughout the order have closed up shop, others have thrived and continue to grow both in membership as well as in programs.

As fraternal leaders, we have the duty and obligation to ensure that we leave the Order in a better position than when we were elected or appointed to the current position we now hold. My brothers, there can be no excuse for inaction. Therefore, as we begin the Lenten season, let us all grow closer in our Faith and develop a stronger prayer life. In doing so, I know that we will all become more effective Fishers of Men.

As you have heard by now, Patrick E Kelly will become the 14th Supreme Knight of the Order on March 1, 2021. In a letter to all State Deputys, Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson stated that "we will be truly blessed to have Patrick assume leadership of the Order. His knowledge, experience, and devotion to the faith makes him exceedingly well-suited to

From the Vocations Director

Jim Weiskircher, Vocations Director

On February 6th, fifteen men started a new life of service to the Diocese of Charleston as deacons. Given the recent string of priests that have died in the Diocese the need is great and these men will give great support to their parishes and to their local priests. Thank you for your service.



Over the years I have had the pleasure of working with Father Matthew Gray, as diocesan Scout Chaplain since 2013 and as Vicar of Vocation for the diocese. On Thursday, Feb 11th, the Archdiocese of the Military Services put out the following statements "WASHINGTON, D.C.- The Archdiocese of the Military Services, USA (AMS), will soon have a new Director of Vocations. He is Father S. Matthew Gray, Ch, Capt, USAF, a priest of the Diocese of Charleston, SC.

Father Gray, 41, is well suited for the position with experience as both a vocations director and a military chaplain. At the moment, he is Director of Vocations for the Diocese of Charleston while also serving as Air Force staff chaplain to the 169th Fighter Wing at McEntire Joint National Guard Base in Richland County, SC. Father Gray is currently on deployment with his unit to the Middle East. In addition to those duties, he serves both as a chaplain at The Citadel Military College and Charleston's Diocesan Scout Chaplain.

His Excellency, the Most Reverend Timothy P. Broglio J.C.D., Archbishop for the Military Services, announced Father Gray's appointment today. Archbishop Broglio said:

"It is a great joy to welcome Father Gray to the archdiocese. I am grateful for his affirmative response to my invitation and also very appreciative of the generous sacrifice made by Bishop Guglielmone and the Diocese of Charleston. In addition to his priestly experience, Father Gray brings with him years of vocation work and his ministry as a chaplain of the Air National Guard. In fact, he is deployed at the present time and we all pray for his ministry and his safe return.

Before his 2011 priestly ordination, Father Gray earned a Bachelor of Arts in French from the University of South Carolina (2005); a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy from the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio (2007); and a Master of Divinity and a Master of Systematic Theology from Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, MD (2011). Over the past six years he has acquired numerous military credentials, including a secret security clearance, completion of basic chaplain training, and training and certification in sexual assault prevention, domestic violence, youth protection, suicide intervention, conflict transformation and de-escalation, and counseling.

Vocations continued on page 4

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Patriot's Corner

Michael A. Allen, PSD
Master, South Carolina
District, DeSoto Province



“I believe the Lord is calling us to place an even higher priority on caring for the spiritual lives of men” Patrick Kelly 2021

Brothers,

When I was elected State Warden almost ten years ago, I said that I felt an increase on the horizon in the order's spirituality. Our brother, Supreme Knight Carl Anderson made great strides in that direction over those years. However, I think that today the election of Patrick Kelly to the post of Supreme Knight is the culmination of that feeling that I had. Patrick's education and commitment to the spirituality and growth of our Order is unwavering and just what the Knights of Columbus need in today's political and secular landscape. Patrick's knowledge of law, insurance and finance are equaled by his love of God and fellow man as attested by his master's degree in Theology from the Pontifical John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and Family at The Catholic University of America. Brothers, we are beginning a new era in Columbianism and I am excited to be a small part of the future of the Catholic family—the domestic church.

On February 20th we are going to witness something that South Carolina is on the forefront of in the era of COVID. We are going to have another in person, face to face 4th degree exemplification. When other jurisdictions are going virtual and not including Mass and a meal with the degree, we are going full fledged in person, with a focus of course on candidate safety. So far, we have 50 brother Knights--citizens desirous of serving their country--signed up. What an amazing showing in our current situation! I want to thank all the men of Bluffton, Beaufort, and the Hilton Head area for their great commitment to their faith in hosting this exemplification.

Now is the time to rise to the challenge and take the Fourth Degree to the next level.

Thank you and God bless you this Year!

Michael A. Allen, PSD, DM

Columbus HOPE Foundation News

Your Columbus Hope Foundation is still functioning and working every day to help those folks with Special Needs in South Carolina. The Pandemic we are living through will long be remembered. I pray we will also remember the effort we gave to support our local Councils.

We want to make sure you and your Councils are aware there are ways to continue to safely support Charities throughout South Carolina even during the Pandemic restrictions. Yes, we all believe that Charity begins at home, but those organizations we have consistently supported have also been impacted by restrictions and need help in any way. Your home Parish needs your weekly support, the Diocese needs your Yearly help, and we need to find ways to provide for those organizations we choose to help.

Some Councils have continued “tootsie roll” programs. This is a very personal effort and must be approached with extreme caution for both the Knights volunteering and for the donors. I am sure the public will welcome seeing your Knights in their vests giving away tootsie rolls as a return to some normal activities. Please be careful when approaching this activity. Several Councils are holding golf tournaments. Golf in South Carolina is a 11 ½ month a year activity and golfers are just looking for a reason to go to a course and play a round. If you have hosted a tournament before, go ahead and try it again. If you have not, give it a try.

Besides the above activities, there are many other ways Councils have tried to make a difference. I have heard of carry out dinners, and even dinners where there were just deliveries to support a Council's Columbus Hope Campaign. You can set up a personal campaign on Facebook that provides the proceeds to the Columbus Hope Foundation. Amazon Smile will provide donations to the Columbus Hope Foundation. I just received a notice saying Amazon Smile provided \$888.22 to Knight's of Columbus Charities this year and over \$10,768.49 since Amazon Smile started. Please consider South Carolina Columbus Hope as an option for your Amazon Smile Account.

Please stay safe, get your vaccine shot/shots, and support your local Council!

From the State Protocol Chairman

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

Vocations continued from page 2

Father Gray has served in a variety of diocesan ministries as well, including Parochial Vicar at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Columbia, SC, where he later served as Pastoral Administrator, and St. Gregory the Great Catholic Church in Bluffton, SC. He also served as chaplain at John Paul II Catholic Middle and High School in Ridgeland, SC, and Cardinal Newman Catholic Middle and High School in Columbia, SC. His achievements in both civilian and military service have not gone unrecognized. The National Catholic Committee on Scouting has presented him with its St. George Award (2013), Bronze Pelican Award (2012) and the Jerusalem Cross (2014). He earned the National Defense Service Medal and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal in 2015, and the US Air Force Achievement Medal in 2019.

As AMS Vocations Director, Father Gray will be in charge of shepherding young men interested in the priesthood and military chaplaincy. He has his work cut out for him. The U.S. Military continues to suffer a chronic shortage of Catholic chaplains as aging priests reach retirement faster than they can be replaced. Over the past 20 years, the number of active-duty Catholic chaplains has declined by more than half, from over

400 at the time of 9/11 to 196 today, serving an active-duty Catholic population of 325,000 based worldwide, not counting their families. While 25 percent of the military is Catholic, Catholic priests make up less than eight percent of chaplains. From his deployment site in the Middle East, Father Gray said: "Being in a deployed location, the last thing I ever expected was to get a phone call from Archbishop Broglio asking me to be his Director of Vocations! My jaw literally dropped." "Combining the ministries of military service to country and vocation discernment," he said, "is an absolute perfect fit for me! I'm very much looking forward to helping young men discern a double calling to both military service as officers and chaplains but also as Catholic priests."

Father Gray asked the faithful for their prayers. "Please continue to pray for bold and courageous men to answer the call to the military chaplaincy as Catholic Priests," he said, "and to encourage those whom you feel God might be calling." Father Gray will complete his deployment before officially taking responsibilities as AMS Vocations Director. He is expected to assume the new position around the beginning of August.

For anyone that knows Father Gray, he always has a huge smile and a ton of enthusiasm. I would like to wish him the best of luck in his new position and a safe return from his deployment. He will be missed. Please continue to pray for him.

State Deputy continued from page 2

continue our mission in these challenging times". I ask that we all continue to pray for Patrick, his wife Vanessa, and the entire Kelly family as he prepares to assume the responsibilities of Supreme Knight of our Order.

Before I close, I would like to personally thank FDD Peter D. La Pierre (District #7) and FDD James "David" Walters (District #15) for their hard work and leadership over the past several years. Both have served the State Council with distinction and we wish them well. I would like to officially welcome aboard Richard "Rick" Swain as DD#7, and Jim W. Carswell as DD#15. Congratulations to Council 6726 (Hanahan/Goose Creek) for reaching 120.00% of their membership goal. Lastly, there is still enough time within this fraternal year for every council to achieve Star Council - it just takes the desire and consistent effort to make it a reality.

As always, your District Deputy and State Officers are willing to assist you and your council. Please do not hesitate to let us know if we can be of assistance.

Fraternally Yours,

Daniel

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