



Knights of Columbus

South Carolina State Council

State Secretary Annual Report - Fraternal Year 2025-2026

In serving as the State Secretary this fraternal year of 2025-2026, I have found that my extensive business background, as well as my time in various leadership positions of the SC Knights of Columbus, have served me well in fulfilling the obligations of this role. My achievements also relied on the ongoing mentoring of our local Supreme Director, Past State Deputies, and State Deputy, for which I am thankful.

I learned that the State Secretary must be prepared to act in place of the State Deputy when necessary. I also learned about the variety of responsibilities, held by this office, which touches nearly every aspect of operations in the State of the SC Order. Specifically, the State Secretary manages administrative, financial, and logistical tasks including the following.

Administrative Responsibilities:

- Prepares disbursement vouchers
- Manages hotel contracts and event logistics
- Maintains attendance logs
- Manages State Council liability insurance
- Submits annual reports for convention minutes

Convention Planning:

- Chairs Convention Committee
- Issues "Call to Convention"
- Manages delegate credentials and seating
- Serves as Master of Ceremonies for the Convention Dinner

Supreme Convention:

- Organizes SC State Dinner
- Assists delegates with logistical support

In addition to the above responsibilities, my activities have included.

- State Council Installation of Officers meeting, Columbia SC June 2025
- Installation of Officers Saint Philip Neri, Fort Mill SC July 2025
- Officer Installation 3696 St Michael the Archangel Assembly, Lake Wylie July 2025
- District Meeting for District #10, Lancaster SC July 2025
- Visit/Participation in Children of Mary Camp, York SC August 2025
- Supreme Convention, Washington DC August 2025
- Meeting with Most Rev. Jacques Fabre-Jeune, CS, Rock Hill Oratory August 2025
- 4th Degree Honor Guard Marshal at Bishop's Mass, Fort Mill SC August 2025
- Our Lady of Grace Officer Installation, Indian Land SC September 2025
- Negotiation Of Facilities-2028/29 State Convention, Myrtle Beach SC October 2025
- World Hunger Drive St. Phillip Neri, Fort Mill SC October 2025

- 4th Degree Patriotic Exemplification, Conway SC October 2025
- SC State Soccer Championship, Columbia SC November 2025
- Three Day Food Drive St. Phillip Neri, Fort Mill SC November 2025
- Preparation Meeting 2026 State Convention, Greenville SC November 2025
- International Award Presentation to Fr. Michael J. McGivney Assembly #3149, Fort Mill SC November 2025
- Serving Holiday Meals-Armory Troopers, Rock Hill/Lancaster area December 2025
- Stand Up For Life Banquet, March, and Rally Columbia SC January 2026
- Preparation & Cancellation (snowstorm) Midyear Meeting, October–January 2026
- 4th Degree Patriotic Exemplification, Hanahan SC January 2026
- Saint Phillip Neri Fish Fry, February - March Fort Mill SC 2026
- Final Contract Negotiation 2027/28 State Convention, Myrtle Beach SC March 2026
- State Free-Throw Championship Contest, Columbia SC March 2026
- 4th Degree Patriotic Exemplification, Lexington SC March 2026
- District Biennial Meeting, Lexington SC March 2026
- 4th Degree Patriotic Exemplification, Fort Mill SC March 2026
- Convention Meeting Preparation, Greenville SC April 2026
- Monthly Territorial State Secretary Virtual Training, Jan- June 2026
- Monthly Territorial Virtual Call, July – June 2026
- Regional 5 Marshall, July-June 2026
- VA/VS Program Director, July-June 2026

My father was a knight in my small hometown in Pennsylvania, where there were few Catholic families. He always told me to keep my head up, never quit, and to surround myself with good men. I have carried that lesson with me throughout my life, knowing that surrounding myself with good men would push me to become a better man, and guide me closer to God.

Here in South Carolina, I have found those good men, and I am deeply grateful for the faith journey I am walking alongside them. I am truly blessed to walk this path surrounded by so many fellow Knights—priests, deacons, and brothers—who have guided, supported, and inspired me. Many have been my mentors, many more have become cherished friends, and all of them are my brothers. I am deeply grateful for the camaraderie, fraternity, and shared purpose that bind us together.

It is both my hope and my honor to continue serving the Brother Knights of South Carolina in the role of State Officer. I am profoundly thankful to all my brothers, especially my fellow State Officers, for the trust they have placed in me and for the opportunity to serve. I honestly believe, with my brothers by my side, and God in my heart, that I cannot fail.

“I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.” — Philippians 4:13

Vivat Jesus, Brothers!

Patrick J. Noone – State Secretary



Knights of Columbus

South Carolina State Council

State Treasurer Annual Report

Fraternal Year 2025-2026

Worthy State Deputy and Brother Knights of the South Carolina State Council:

The State Treasurer is responsible for serving as the custodian of all funds and securities of the State Council. Major responsibilities include the following: Paying bills and invoices only on vouchers issued by the State Secretary and signed by the State Deputy; Preparing and calculating the State Per Capita and State Liability invoices; Serving as State Chairman for the State Charity Raffle; Accept all monies for all reasons at every event and provide receipts; Receive, records and deposits State Convention registrations and Convention Ads.

In addition to the above I attended the following:

- State Council installation for officers in Columbia, June 2025.
- Installation of Officers at Council 12472, Charleston, July 2025
- Supreme Convention in Washington, DC, August 2025
- St. Clare Pink and Blue Gala, Daniel Island, Sep 2025
- Fourth Degree Exemplification, Conway, Oct 2025
- State Soccer competition, Columbia, Nov 2025
- CUF exemplification, at Council 9475, Mount Pleasant, Jan 2026
- Fourth Degree Exemplification, Hanahan, Jan 2026
- State Free Throw competition, Columbia, Mar 2026
- Catholic Appeal His Garden Society Appreciation Mass, Charleston, Mar 2026

This year has been a learning and professional development experience. There have been many opportunities for meeting many Knights throughout the State as well as forming bonds that would not have been possible had I not been the State Treasurer. As this has been my first opportunity to serve on the State Staff, I have had the privilege to serve with great Past State Deputies, Staff officers and Directors. It has been through their wisdom and experience that greatly assisted me in my duties.

As the Fraternal Year comes to an end, I look forward to serving my Council, District and State in any capacity as deemed necessary in the future. Jody and myself thank all Brother Knights and spouses for their assistance and kindness throughout the year.

Vivat Jesus!

Joe Nesbitt
SC Knights of Columbus State Treasurer



Knights of Columbus South Carolina State Council

Worthy State Deputy, and every brother in the State of South Carolina;

As your State Advocate, I have spent much of my time working on compliance issues. Reviewing reports, tracking councils and individuals in the councils that are not in compliance. The main compliance issue I was concerned with was Safe Environment. Along the way, I tried to instill the fact that compliance was not just a box to check, and not just a requirement for star council. The name Safe Environment tells us exactly what is intended. If the training is taken seriously, and the elements are implemented at every event the Knights are involved in, we will provide a safe environment for the youth, vulnerable adults and all in attendance.

I also answered a few questions from councils concerning procedures or by laws. Regardless of who holds this office be assured they will always be open to your inquiries. I don't claim to know everything, but I can research state and supreme by laws, the supreme website or contact someone at the supreme off to find you the answer.

I attended my first supreme convention. This was both enjoyable and informative. I encourage all to attend at least once in your time with the knights. Even if you do not get the chance to attend as a delegate should attend. As a state officer I attended the kickoff, midwinter meeting, and 4th degree exemplifications. On the council level I attended several CUF degrees, first responders' dinners, a golf tournament and multiple installation of officer ceremonies. I would have liked to attend more of these types of events, but I was unaware of them. I encourage all grand knights to send an email to all state officers whenever you are holding an event. We can't attend all your events but if we know about them and our schedules allow it any of the state officers would be attending more events.

Respectively submitted;
Christopher Beumel
State Advocate



Knights of Columbus

South Carolina State Council

State Warden Annual Report FY 2025 – 2026

As the State Warden, I am responsible for storing and maintaining all equipment belonging to the State Council. Additionally, the State Warden is responsible for transporting the equipment to the various venues for meetings, workshops, and conferences.

I am also responsible for positioning the various chambers for the respective activities, whether they be a meeting or Mass in conjunction with a convention or workshop. With the District Deputies and host Grand Knights, I work to ensure the success of each activity.

The Warden is also responsible for ensuring protocol procedures are followed concerning seating and the display of flags and banners. Additionally, the State Warden assists in recruiting volunteers to serve in various ministries and activities during the State Convention.

I am responsible for the storage of all assets in our Morning Star Storage Unit in Columbia. I keep track of all items in storage and return them when used at any State event where they are required.

During the 2024-2025 fraternal year I attended the following:

- District Deputy and State Officer Installations Columbia June 2025
- Supreme Convention, Washington, DC, August 2025
- State Soccer Challenge, Columbia, October 2025
- Proudly Pro-Life March & Rally, Columbia, January 2026
- Chairman - State Free Throw Contest, Columbia, March 2026

I am proud to serve on the State Council, and I am thankful for the opportunity to serve South Carolina as a State Officer. It is my desire to continue to develop my skills to honor our Order, in whatever capacity is deemed necessary.

Fraternally,

Herman King

South Carolina State Warden



Knights of Columbus

South Carolina State Council

2026

The Official Report for the South Carolina District of the DeSoto Province

Worthy District Friar, Worthy State Treasurer, Worthy District Staff Members, Worthy Faithful Navigators, Worthy Assembly Officers, Worthy Delegates, Worthy Sir Knights, my brothers and friends. I bring you greetings from our Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly, our Supreme Master Michael McKusker, our Vice Supreme Master Daniel Barton, and our State Deputy J. Scott Friedman.

It is hard to believe that two years have passed here in the South Carolina district and that we are convening together for the biennial meeting. During my meeting with our outstanding district staff, I shared that the theme for our Biennial gathering today is to focus on Fraternity.

Our Supreme Master recently reminded us, “This March 29th, as we celebrate Founders Day, we should recall that Blessed Michael McGivney established the Knights of Columbus in a period marked by unchecked class discrimination against Catholic immigrants that was fueled by distrust, misinformation, and suspicion, as well as a misguided sense of patriotism that held that Catholics were incapable of good citizenship. We should use this occasion to examine whether times have truly changed since 1882, asking the question: How often do our words today sound more like the slurs, insults, and suspicions once directed at our immigrant ancestors? Have we allowed earthly things to distract us from our heavenly citizenship? Or more precisely, do our patriotic sentiments lend to unity or do they stand as enemies of the cross of Christ?” The winds have shifted, the seas remain restless, but our mission—service to God, Church, and Country—remains unwavering.

As Sir Knights, we are called to stand firm at our post—faithful to our Church, steadfast in our families, and true to the oath we took before God. In these uncertain times, when faith is often tested and patriotism questioned, our duty is clear: to bring the light of our Faith to a nation that so desperately needs it. We must cling to the promises we have made as Catholic gentlemen and live the truth that has guided this Order since our founding—that faith and freedom walk hand in hand.



Knights of Columbus

South Carolina State Council

Membership

The spirit of patriotism burns brightly in South Carolina, as the Patriotic Degree continues to flourish and inspire. Over the past year, our District has proudly conducted three exemplifications, Charleston, Conway, Hanahan, welcoming a remarkable 137 new Sir Knights into our ranks—an achievement that stands at approximately 83% of our annual membership goal. These new Sir Knights carry forth the torch of faith and country, strengthening the very fabric of our Order and our nation. I extend my heartfelt thanks to SK James Roche, SK Jeffrey Crouch, and State Secretary Patrick Noone, and State Deputy Scott Friedman for their selfless service, and steadfast cooperation in making these memorable events possible.

Our journey of growth and patriotic service depends on the dedication and enthusiasm of every member. Each new Fourth Degree Knight's path begins as a Third-Degree member, let us stand tall and visible at Council exemplifications and warmly encourage our brothers to embrace the noble calling of Patriotism and the Fourth Degree. Together, we serve God and country, united in our commitment to the values that make our nation great. Let us continue to shine as a beacon of faith, unity, and patriotic devotion for all to see.

Exemplifications

We are deeply grateful to the Assemblies and Degree Teams who organized and hosted exemplifications this past year. Your unwavering dedication and patriotic spirit shine as a beacon of unity, faith, and love for our country. These ceremonies are more than just events—they embody the cherished values of the Fourth Degree and help us weave a stronger fabric of fraternity, service, and devotion to God and country in every corner of our great state. Looking ahead, we are filled with hope and enthusiasm as we prepare for exemplifications in Lexington, Fort Mill, and Greenville during the waning months of this fraternal year. Each gathering offers another opportunity to stand together, honor our principles, and welcome new members into our patriotic brotherhood. Assemblies interested in hosting an exemplification are encouraged to reach out to me or the District Secretary, so together we can bring this meaningful experience to even more communities, inspiring pride and unity throughout South Carolina.



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South Carolina State Council

New Assemblies

This year marked the establishment of the Blessed Pier Georgio Frassati Assembly #3984 in the Coastal region, serving as further evidence that organizational growth persists when Knights engage in service. With the number of Councils now at 64 and Assemblies at 31, South Carolina continues to expand its Fourth-Degree presence. The formation of local assemblies enhances fraternal connections and facilitates greater participation by reducing travel requirements. Any Council with a minimum of 30 members is eligible to initiate the process of forming an Assembly. Discussions are currently ongoing with several groups regarding new charters for the current year.

Serving Those Who Served

Our collaboration with Veterans Affairs Medical Facilities in Augusta, Charleston, and Columbia is maintained through the “Serving Those Who Served” initiative. Since its establishment in 1946, the VAVS program has been recognized as the largest volunteer network within the Federal Government. Individuals interested in serving as representatives or volunteers are encouraged to participate, as their support is greatly valued. These ongoing commitments reflect the Fourth Degree’s dedication to patriotism and service to those who have served our nation.

Warriors to Lourdes

Originally pledged in 2018, our annual promise to send a South Carolina veteran on pilgrimage to Lourdes was paused during the pandemic but has now been renewed in 2024 under the leadership of Worthy State Secretary/Regional Marshal Patrick Noone, who is leading the fundraising effort to make this pilgrimage once again a living promise to our veterans and our Faithful Friar, Fr. Higgins. This pilgrimage offers our veterans a chance for spiritual healing and reflection, honoring their service and deepening our community's faith.

Honor Guards

The Honor Guard serves as a distinguished and solemn representation of our faith and patriotism. Honors are presented to deceased Sir Knights, their immediate family members, or Council members upon proper request. The preferences of the bereaved family must always be observed and upheld.



Knights of Columbus South Carolina State Council

It is essential that no member or their family experiences loss without the visible support of fellow Sir Knights, as this demonstration of fraternity remains significant. Additionally, it must be explicitly noted that the old regalia is strictly prohibited for use in any ceremony or event under any circumstances.

A Final Thought:

Blessed Father Michael McGivney was a man ahead of his time. He believed that the call to holiness belonged not to a few, but to all. Long before the Second Vatican Council, he understood what the Church would one day affirm — that the hopes and the struggles, the triumphs and the trials of mankind are deeply shared by all who follow Christ.

Today, the Fourth Degree of the Knights of Columbus stand as a living testament to that vision. Through public witness and quiet strength, through service freely given and faith boldly shown, they carry forward his mission with renewed purpose. In doing so, they remind us that progress is not found in abandoning our roots, but in returning to them — with courage, with clarity, and with conviction.

Many Thanks

To all those whose efforts contributed to the success of this year—our hosts, degree teams, Faithful Friar Fr. Robert Higgins, individuals who supported our veterans, and every Sir Knight who demonstrates his commitment to faith through meaningful actions—I extend my sincere appreciation. I would also like to express special thanks to SK Jeffrey Crouch, Supreme Director, District Secretary, for staying the course with me amid his busy schedule, SK Chris Hilditch, Program Director, SK James Roche, District Marshal, and SK Daniel Barton, Vice Supreme Master for their ongoing guidance and assistance.

In addition, I am grateful to my wife, Debbie, for her invaluable support in organizing banquets and ladies' events, as well as for her steadfast advice and insight. Her unwavering presence has been instrumental in all endeavors. To my fellow Sir Knights, I am thankful for your dedication to upholding the Faith, honoring our veterans, and preserving the esteemed traditions of the Fourth Degree.



Knights of Columbus South Carolina State Council

Farewell

It has been my distinct honor to serve as District Master and to represent you — the Faithful Navigators, the Marshals, the State Officers, and the devoted patriotic Catholic gentlemen of South Carolina — for six of the past eight years. In that time, I witnessed not only your dedication to duty but the quiet courage and steadfast faith that defines true leadership.

I am deeply grateful to Supreme Knight Michael McCusker and Vice Supreme Master Daniel Barton for their confidence and enduring faith in me. Yet my greatest thanks belong to you — the men who labor faithfully, who give of themselves without fanfare, who understand that service to God and country is the highest form of citizenship. You are the strength and spirit of the Fourth Degree.

This position has been more than an office; it has been a calling — one that has enriched me beyond all measures and deepened my faith in both our mission and in you. Together, we have proven that when men of conviction act with unity and purpose, there is no limit to what can be achieved.

Respectfully submitted,
This 2nd Day of May, 2026
Greenville, SC
Michael A. Allen, PSD, FDM
District Master, South Carolina



Knights of Columbus

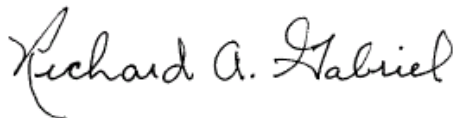
South Carolina State Council

Convention Rules by the Committee on Laws and Resolutions

1. The State Deputy, prior to opening the convention shall appoint a Board of Tellers (anyone of whom shall be eligible to serve as Election Commissioner). They shall serve as tellers on all division votes; roll call votes; and shall count, examine a record all ballots cast for election of state officers and delegates or alternates to the Supreme Convention.
2. All Knighthood members in good standing entitled to be admittance to secession, but only as spectators.
3. When a member of the State Council desires to obtain the floor he shall rise, if the floor has been yielded, address the presiding officer by his official title, and upon catching the latter's attention the member shall give his name and his capacity in the State Council.
4. A motion regularly moved and seconded must be stated by the chair before a vote is taken.
5. A motion may be withdrawn by its sponsor, before the vote, without objection.
6. Members may not speak more than once on any question and not more than three (3) minutes; nor may they yield unused time to other members.
7. The chair must state every question clearly and, before putting same to a vote, shall say "Are you ready for the Question?"
8. Unless a demand is made by a delegate, the "whereas" clause of all resolutions and amendments shall not be read.
9. If no objection is made to a resolution or committee recommendation, it is declared adopted unanimously; saying "no objection? Agreed to."
10. All resolutions shall have been submitted in conformity with article III, Section 8. All amendments to or affecting the State By-Laws shall be handled in conformity with Article VII.
11. When a proposed resolution or amendment to the By-Laws has been disapproved by the committee, a delegate sponsoring the same shall be allowed on the floor, if requested.

12. When the PERMANENT ROLL CALL OF DELEGATES (Article III, Section 4) is initiated, the doors of the chamber will be closed. No one will be allowed to leave or enter and only the votes of delegates present in the chamber shall be counted. The State Warden shall assure that only qualified delegates are in the delegate seating area. The doors shall remain closed until voting of State Officers, Supreme Delegates and Alternates, Resolutions and State Council Budget is completed.
13. The nomination of State Officers, Delegates and Alternates to the Supreme Convention shall take place during the convention. Nominating speeches will be allowed if the position is contested. When nominating speeches are allowed they shall be limited to one speech of three (3) minute duration per candidate. Nominations shall not be seconded, nor shall motions closing nominations be entertained. When only one candidate for any office is presented, the chair shall instruct the State Secretary to cast one unanimous ballot of the State Council for such candidate and declaring him duly elected.
14. Robert's Rules of Order, as revised, shall govern all matters and or procedures that are not provided in the forgoing rules or the By-Laws of the Knight of Columbus South Carolina State Council or the Charter Constitution Laws of the Knights of Columbus.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard A. Gabriel". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the text "Respectfully Submitted,".

Richard A. Gabriel, PSD
2026 State Convention Parliamentarian



Knights of Columbus South Carolina State Council

March 8, 2026

Worthy State Deputy,

This was a highly unusual interview process in that the midyear meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather. As a result, we had to interview each of the candidates virtually. This in itself created additional challenges as we had to find dates and times for each of the candidates as well as each of our committee members. Additionally, we had to ensure that no committee member actually served on the committee that was interviewing candidates for a position in which he was also a candidate (i.e. a committee member applying for a state officer position, did not serve on the committee when we interviewed state officer candidates; and a candidate for a delegate position did not serve when we interviewed candidates for delegate positions.)

The process took approximately three weeks to complete as we interviewed eight (8) candidates for state officer positions and an additional four (4) to serve as delegates to the supreme convention. Throughout the process, our goal was to provide the jurisdiction with the best selection of officers for the upcoming fraternal years as well as the future.

After carefully reviewing the qualifications and potential of each candidate, and many discussions, the committee respectfully submits the following slate of officers for the 2026-2027 fraternal year:

<u>Position</u>	<u>Nominee</u>
State Deputy	Patrick J. Noone
State Secretary	Joseph G. Nesbitt
State Treasurer	Robert W. Gesell
State Advocate	Christopher T. Carter
State Warden	Brandon J. Chambers

For the position of delegates to the 144th Supreme Convention scheduled for August 4-6 in Denver, CO, each jurisdiction has two automatic delegates, the State Deputy and the Immediate Past State Deputy. The South Carolina jurisdiction is also authorized two (2) additional "Insurance" Delegates and four (4) additional "Associate" Delegates.

The following Brother Knights have been nominated for these remaining six delegate positions along with alternates.

<u>Position</u>	<u>Nominee</u>
Insurance Delegate	Brandon J. Chambers
Insurance Delegate	Daniel E. Barton
Associate Delegate	Joseph G, Nesbitt
Associate Delegate	Christopher T. Carter
Associate Delegate	Mark A. Phillips
Associate Delegate	Joseph Lazzara
1 st Alternate	William E. Weiss Jr.
2 nd Alternate	Christopher J. Beumel
3 rd Alternate	
4 th Alternate	

I wish to remind all councils that they will have an opportunity to vote for each state officer and delegate at our upcoming 105th state convention, May 2, 2026 in Greenville. Therefore, it is imperative that each council is represented so their voice can be heard.

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to chair this most worthy group of Catholic gentlemen and thank all the candidates who applied for State Officer and delegate positions.

I want to especially pay gratitude to the following members of the Nominating Committee for their time and attention in putting together the slate of officers and delegates for the 2026-2027 fraternal year:

Daniel E. Barton, PSD, VSM, FDM
Michael A. Allen, PSD, FDM
Mark A. Heckler, DD #5
Robert W. Gessell, DD #15

Thomas M. Monahan, PSD, FVSM, FDM
Richard W. Swain, PSA, FDD
Christopher M. Ryder, EFF Dir.

Respectfully submitted,



Paul V. Burchell, PSD
Chairman



Knights of Columbus South Carolina State Council

April 22, 2026

Worthy State Deputy,

The Budget and Finance Committee has thoroughly reviewed the proposed budget for the next fraternal year, which has a Per Capita rate of \$7.50 per billable member (minus Inactive, Disabled, and Honorary Life).

The State Officers are to be commended for preparing the budget, considering the impact of recent council mergers and reactivation efforts, the projected loss of billable membership due to the Affiliate Membership Program, and the increased cost of doing business in our current economy.

Therefore, after carefully reviewing the proposed budget for Fraternal Year 2026-2027, the Budget and Finance Committee recommends its adoption.

I want to thank the following members of the Budget and Finance Committee for their time and diligence:

Christopher T. Carter, DD6
Robert W. Gesell, DD15

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeffrey M. Crouch'.

Jeffrey M. Crouch, PSD
Chairman



Knights of Columbus South Carolina State Council

Worthy State Deputy, State Officer's, District Deputies, Grand Knights and my brothers all,

It has been an honor to serve as your Membership Director for the state of South Carolina this past year. Thanks to the brothers who preceded me in this position, my role has been to continue the momentum they established.

With your support, I am pleased to report that our state is not only meeting but substantially exceeding our goals once again this year. As of April 12, 2026, we have already surpassed our annual goal, reaching 113% of target. South Carolina ranks number seven across the Order and is only a few new Brothers away from breaking into the top five jurisdictions.

The past two years set a strong recruiting standard under the leadership of Brother Brandon Chambers, and I am happy to report that we are again surpassing last year's pace. We are on track to recruit over 800 men this fiscal year.

As of this writing, 28 councils have already reached their annual goal, with nine exceeding 200% of their targets. I would like to recognize the following councils for their outstanding performance: Councils 6892 (Irmo) and 6900 (Charleston), both exceeding 400% of their goals; Councils 8295 (Anderson) and 6629 (Summerville), each surpassing 300%; and Councils 2207 (Sumter), 8502 (Walterboro), 8980 (Garden City), 12263 (Bluffton), and 17824 (Myrtle Beach), all exceeding 200%. Additionally, nine more councils are within two or three new members, reaching 200%, and seven others are within two members of achieving their annual goal.

The state has welcomed more than 675 new members this year, already achieving Circle of Honor. Reaching our pinnacle goal for the fifth consecutive year appears well within reach by the time of the state convention.

I would also like to highlight the outreach program developed by Brother Brandon Chambers, which has been implemented in several parishes over the past year. This initiative has brought more than 375 new Brother Knights into the Order, with an additional 150 prospective members expressing interest. Numerous councils have adopted this outreach method, and it is now spreading throughout the Order.

I had the privilege of joining Brandon in hosting a film team from Supreme at our local Cathedral Council 17760 to capture the outreach program in action. As expected, with a scheduled exemplification in May, Council 17760 is once again on track to exceed its goal due to this initiative. The footage will be used across the Order to demonstrate the effectiveness of the outreach program.

You should all take pride in South Carolina's leadership in this effort and in the many new Brothers who will join our Order as a result of your continued support of Brandon over the years.

Last year, we surpassed 12,000 members for the first time in our state's history and are now within 500 of reaching 13,000. Future growth remains strong, as Catholic men across our state seek opportunities to grow in their faith, support the Church, and serve their fellow man.

In summary, the Knights of Columbus in South Carolina continue to thrive in every aspect.

Vivat Jesus,

Marty Sergi (State Membership Chairman)
God Bless



Knights of Columbus

South Carolina State Council

24 April 2026

From: Director of Evangelization and Faith Formation
To: State Deputy, South Carolina State Council
Via: State Secretary, South Carolina State Council

Subject: Cor Report for Columbian Year 2025-2026, Revision 1

Worthy State Deputy, State Officers and Brothers All:

The Cor Initiative in the South Carolina State Council is progressing steadily in achieving the Christ-centered Brotherhood of Catholic men as envisioned by our founder, Blessed Michael McGivney.

The primary objective for this Columbian Year is recruiting EFF coordinators for each of the five deaneries in the Diocese of Charleston. Currently, we have Chris Hardin leading the Rock Hill Deanery and Rick Swain for the Columbia Deanery. I have a prospect for Myrtle Beach, but we are still in need of coordinators for Aiken, Beaufort, Charleston and Greenville. Training of the Deanery coordinators are ready to go that includes guidance from the Supreme Council EFF directors. South Carolina Cor is fortunate to have Father Erik Roman, Pastoral Vicar at Saint Peter Basilica Parish as our Liaison Priest.

At the last reporting on 5 January 2026, 34 councils reported assigning EFF Directors. This compares with the Columbian Year “944 report” which records 37 councils intending to appoint an EFF this year. Also from the 955 report, 50 councils forecast that they will “implement or continue Cor this fraternal year.” Thirty-eight councils reported having conducted Cor at least once during Columbian Year 2024-2025. At this time, the Supreme Council Cor directorate has not posted any quarterly Cor Reports that Councils are directed to submit online, so I have no way to verify how many councils are participating in the initiative.

In my limited discussions with Grand Knights who call me about Cor, their comments include:

- I receive very little information about Cor from the District Deputy
 - My response: Go to the KofC Cor website. That site can tell you more in 10 minutes than I can tell you in an hour. As for the District Deputy, ask him about helping with Cor, perhaps holding a district-wide Cor gathering for councils.
- Our council is busy enough with our limited time membership to add another “Faith in Action” program.
 - My response: Cor is not part of Faith in Action. It is an initiative for Evangelization and Faith Formation across all council activities, including programs, membership and even the Fourth Degree. Think of Cor as a “re-branding” of Father McGivney’s objective for founding the Knights of Columbus, to form a Christ-centered Brotherhood. There is always time for more prayer and faith formation.

- Programs are what Knights do. Cor is who Knights are!
- Our Parish already has an active men's ministry
 - My response: Is the ministry organized with a structured formation and prayer with designated leadership? (Example: That Man is You, Fraternus, The Men of Saint Joseph, CatholicMensMinistry.com). If so, the Grand Knight and EFF should approach the ministry leader and ask what the Council can do to help the ministry with its program. Point out the plethora of media that the Order produces to complement the resources provided by their particular program. And then, encourage the Knights to become active in the ministry. As leaders in our parishes, they should be already.
 - Remind the ministry director that Cor also includes Fraternity which is not part of most of these other formation programs. Volunteer the Council to provide the meal along with other fraternal activities.
 - If the response is that the Parish has one or more prayer groups, but they are more informal. My response: Informal prayer groups appeal to a limited number of men. The GK and EFF should approach the Pastor on how the Parish can unify men's prayer groups into an organized ministry. Let the Pastor know that Cor can accommodate more than one gathering per month.
- The Pastor does not approve
 - My response: Why? If this is the case, let's review his objections and find out what we can do to change his mind. I realize that there are pastors who are not so fond of the Knights of Columbus, but would a Pastor reject the offer to gather the men of the parish for prayer and formation?

Based on the comments gathered over the year, I recommend the following objectives for the remainder of this Columbian Year and for CY 2026-2027:

- Continue to identify and train Deanery EFF coordinators. Projected completion date: 30 June 2026
- Continue working with Grand Knights and Council EFFs. Having Deanery coordinators working directly with the Councils frees District Deputies to concentrate on Programs.
- Initiate a Cor "traveling road show" across South Carolina. These sessions will be coordinated by the State EFF and the respective Deanery coordinators. These sessions will be for District Deputies, Grand Knights, Council EFFs, and anyone else who like to attend and become active in South Carolina Cor, including Hispanic and college ministries. Council chaplains are certainly welcome, but they would likely be too busy to leave the parish on any given Saturday. Projected completion: 15 November to compete before Advent.
- Start working on Spanish Cor. This includes coordinating with our Spanish roundtables as well as the diocesan Hispanic ministry coordinators.
- Begin some adjunct Cor prayer and faith formation activities that can be done by brother Knights outside the Gathering. Knights should be aware of how easy it is to access faith formation media from KofC.org. Most all these artifacts can be downloaded (for free) and uploaded onto tablet computers and even smartphones for personal reflection and prayer. Brother Chris Hardin initiated the idea for "Cor on the Road," which Brothers who frequently perform business travel can do in their hotel rooms. Cor on the Road can also

be for families while on vacation. Of course, families not on vacation can apply “Cor at Home.”

I pledge my continued support to the South Carolina State Council as well as to our Order’s Supreme Council Cor leadership.

Vivat Jesus,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Ryder". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Chris" and the last name "Ryder" clearly distinguishable.

Chris Ryder, PGK
Director, Evangelization and Faith Formation
South Carolina State Council, KofC

Appendix A: Supreme Council Cor Activity by Jurisdiction

The Supreme Council Cor Office sent these tables to provide information for their Conventions for discussion. The tables present excellent statistics, but what is missing is the level of continuous activity that the is going on within the individual Councils.

Highest Cor Participation – Most fully engaged jurisdictions

Jurisdiction	Total Councils	Cor Councils (944)	% Doing Cor
Utah	34	34	100%
Alaska	20	20	100%
Hawaii	29	25	86.21%
Nevada	45	38	84.44%
South Carolina	62	50	80.65%
Michigan	405	320	76.19%

Highest Total Cor Groups – Greatest actual activity.

South Carolina would not be on this table as it is based solely on the numbers of Councils in the jurisdiction. Our 62 Councils would not put us on this list.

Jurisdiction	Total Councils	Cor Councils (944)	% Doing Cor
Luzon South	790	433	54.81%
Luzon North	837	415	49.58%
Texas	725	409	56.41%
California	641	392	61.15%
Michigan	405	320	76.19%
New York	477	197	41.30%
New Jersey	311	190	61.09%
Pennsylvania	484	182	37.60%

Highest EFF Director % – Ensures sustainable leadership structure.

Jurisdiction	Total Councils	Cor Councils (944)	% Doing Cor	EFF Directors	% with Director
New Mexico	96	36	37.50%	93	258.33%
Mississippi	60	32	53.33%	49	153.13%
Mindanao	1531	102	6.66%	81	79.41%
Prince Edward Island	20	13	65%	10	76.92%
District Of Columbia	21	8	38.10%	6	75%
South Carolina	62	50	80.65%	34	68%
Rhode Island	42	20	47.62%	13	65%
Georgia	118	68	57.63%	44	64.71%

The table presented below comes from an Excel spreadsheet that Supreme sent to me that summarizes the online submission of the Cor Quarterly Reports. This report form includes the number of Cor gatherings that take place in a Parish/ Council in each quarter, the attendance at each one (most responses were blank), and the program that was conducted. I am posting the Councils, their Parishes, cities/ towns, and the quarter of the submission. Looking at this table does not back up the numbers that Supreme provides above, which primarily came from the 944 reports.

Appendix B: South Carolina Quarterly Surveys as of April 2026

5026	Saint Peters	Beaufort	FY Q4 (April - June)
5026	Saint Peters	Beaufort	FY Q1 (July - Sept.)
5026	Saint Peters	Beaufort	FY Q2 (Oct. - Dec.)
5026	Saint Peters	Beaufort	FY Q3 (Jan. - Mar.)
5086	St. Andrew	Myrtle Beach	FY Q1 (July - Sept.)
5194	St. Anthony	Florence, SC	FY Q4 (April - June)
6250	Church of the Nativity	Charleston	FY Q4 (April - June)
6629	St John the Beloved Catholic Church	Summerville	FY Q3 (Jan. - Mar.)
6629	St. John the Beloved	Summerville	FY Q2 (Oct. - Dec.)
6629	St John the Beloved	Summerville	FY Q3 (Jan. - Mar.)
6629	St John the Beloved	Summerville	FY Q3 (Jan. - Mar.)
6639	St. John the Beloved Roman Catholic Church	Summerville	FY Q1 (July - Sept.)
8123	St Mary's the Virgin Mother	Hartsville	FY Q1 (July - Sept.)
8123	St Marys	Hartsville	FY Q2 (Oct. - Dec.)
8123	St Mary's	Hartsville	FY Q3 (Jan. - Mar.)
8123	St Mary's RC Church	Hartsville	FY Q3 (Jan. - Mar.)
8123	St Mary's the virgin mother	Hartsville	FY Q2 (Oct. - Dec.)
8123	St Marys	Hartsville	FY Q1 (July - Sept.)
8980	Saint Michael	Garden City	FY Q1 (July - Sept.)
8980	Saint Michael	Garden City	FY Q2 (Oct. - Dec.)
8980	Saint Michael	Garden City	FY Q3 (Jan. - Mar.)
8980	Saint Michael	Garden City	FY Q4 (April - June)
8980	Saint Michael	Garden City	FY Q2 (Oct. - Dec.)
8980	Saint Michael	Garden City	FY Q3 (Jan. - Mar.)
11325	Corpus Christi	Lexington	FY Q1 (July - Sept.)
11325	Corpus Christi	Lexington	FY Q2 (Oct. - Dec.)
11325	Corpus Christi	Lexington	FY Q3 (Jan. - Mar.)
11325	Corpus Christi	Lexington	FY Q4 (April - June)
11325	Corpus Christi	Lexington	FY Q1 (July - Sept.)
11325	Corpus Christi	Lexington	FY Q2 (Oct. - Dec.)
11991	Immaculate Conception Catholic Church	Goose Creek	FY Q3 (Jan. - Mar.)
11991	Immaculate Conception Catholic Church	Goose Creek	FY Q2 (Oct. - Dec.)
11991	Immaculate Conception	Goose Creek	FY Q3 (Jan. - Mar.)
12263	St. Gregory the Great	Bluffton	FY Q2 (Oct. - Dec.)
12263	St. Gregory the Great	Bluffton	FY Q3 (Jan. - Mar.)
12263	St. Gregory the Great	Bluffton, SC	FY Q3 (Jan. - Mar.)
12263	St. Gregory the Great	Bluffton, SC	FY Q4 (April - June)
12263	St. Gregory the Great	Bluffton	FY Q1 (July - Sept.)
14475	All Saints	Lake Wylie	FY Q1 (July - Sept.)
17824	Frassati Church	Myrtle Beach	FY Q2 (Oct. - Dec.)

This chart implies that most of the Cor gatherings in South Carolina are conducted by seven Councils (5026, 6629, 8123, 8980, 11325, 11991, and 12263). Of course, I hope that gatherings are being conducted but not reported.



Knights of Columbus

South Carolina State Council

State Program Director Annual Report

Fraternal Year 2025-2026

As State Program Director my responsibilities include:

- Promoting and communicating directives and goals of the State Deputy initiatives and Supreme Council Programs
- Providing direct coaching and support to my FIA State Team, District Deputies and Council Program Directors
- Providing necessary accountability for programs established initiatives, goals and deadlines.
- Forming and fostering partnerships with external community organizations to ensure successful program development and expansion
- Becoming the subject matter expert on all Faith In Action Programs and their administrative requirements

During the 2025-2026 fraternal year, following are some of the specific initiatives that I undertook toward meeting the general responsibilities described above:

- Closely monitored statewide status of 10784 program reports. Periodically provided updates to the State Deputy and District Deputies
- Developed a Faith In Action Best Practices Manual. Presented the Best Practices Manual to the DGK's at the organizational meeting and posted the manual on the State website.
- Promoted State Council increased support of Special Olympics events. Organized Knight's volunteers for support of the 2025 Fall Games.
- Made courtesy visits to state director of SC Habitat for Humanity & CEO of SC Special Olympics.
- Provided periodic written program updates to District Deputies and Grand Knights highlighting critical program features and milestones.
- Communicated and coordinated with the four FIA Directors on a regular basis.
- Submitted various State Program reports to Supreme
- Maintained contact with all State FIA Chairmen
- Served as State Chairman of the Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest
- Served as State Chairman of KCIC Poster Contest. Posted all entries on state website.
- Assisted Life Director in planning Silve Rose Program
- Recruited and oriented new chairman for Global Wheelchair Mission. Also promoted other Knights to assume State chairman positions.
- Participated in monthly virtual meetings with State Officers and District Deputies
- Attended District 13 District Meeting in Goose Creek
- State Convention Committee member. Participated in weekly virtual planning meetings
- Ordered and organized FIA materials for FIA Information Table at the State Convention
- Designed and constructed display promoting the eight new FIA Programs
- Served as State Awards Chairman. Coordinated receipt of award applications and organized the judging.
- Selected as Associate Delegate to 2026 National Convention
- Served as Trustee of Immaculate Conception Council 11991 and Faithful Captain of Assembly 3697. Participated in numerous functions and activities of these two organizations

A richly spiritual rewarding experience this year was the pilgrimage that my wife and I took to Fatima, Portugal and Lourdes, France. We are also looking forward to the National Convention in August 2026 in Denver, Colorado.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as State program Director. I found it both challenging and invigorating in shifting my Knights of Columbus experiences from; first Council level as Grand Knight; then District level as a District Deputy and now to the State Council as State Program Director. I appreciate the mentoring, assistance and cooperation from the State Council officers, District Deputies, Grand Knights and others . I look forward to new and expanding challenges in the upcoming year.



Mark Phillips

State Programs Director



Knights of Columbus South Carolina State Council

4/16/25

State Life Directors - 2025 END OF YEAR **LIFE** REPORT

As the SC State Life Director, it is my privilege to honor the following pro-life accomplishments of our brother Knights in South Carolina.

January

ULTRASOUND INITIATIVE:

- Council 14765 recently purchased a new ultrasound machine for the Women's Enrichment Center in Lancaster.
- Council 6884 purchased an ultrasound machine in October of 2023 for Foothills Care Center in Seneca.

MARCH FOR LIFE

- On January 11th approximately 50 Knights brought 70 guests from around the Palmetto State to participate in South Carolina March for Life. President of South Carolina Citizens for Life, Lisa Van Ripper, compared the current state of the Pro-Life Movement to the invasion of Normandy during WWII.

February

- Rev. Msgr. John L McLaughlin Council 9475 in Mt. Pleasant SC; for collecting over 13,000 diapers for the Low Country Pregnancy Center.
- Knights from around the state supported St. Clare's Maternity Home by attending the Greenville Gala for St. Clare's Home.

March

- Many of our brothers participated in the 40 Days for Life Spring Prayer Campaigns in SC. Campaigns were held in front of the abortion clinics in Greenville, Columbia, and Charleston.

April

- Knight of Columbus in the Charleston area attended a Berkley County zoning meeting to encourage approval of St. Clare's Charleston Maternity Home. St. Clare's Home was approved and is now open and serving women in the Charleston area.
- Knights from around the state hosted the Silver Rose.

May

- Knights from around the state supported St. Clare's Maternity Home by attending the Grand Strand Proudly Supports St. Clare's Home.

June and July

- Council 6629 at St. John the Beloved in Summerville raised \$ 21,000 for St. Clare's using a baby bottle drive. They also collected approx \$2,000 worth of maternity and infant items.
- Council 11991, at Immaculate Conception in Goose Creek, and other knights are providing on-site assistance with repairs and maintenance, as well as connections with reliable local contractors and other businesses.
- Council 6250 provided a sponsorship for the fundraising Gala for St. Clare's on September 25th.
- Council 6884, St. Gerard Majella, in Seneca has raised the necessary funds to donate an ultrasound machine worth over \$ 45,000 to the Hope Women's Center!

August

ULTRASOUND INITIATIVE

- Corpus Christi Council 11325 in Lexington, SC raised the necessary funds to donate an ultrasound machine worth over \$ 35,000 to LaVie Pregnancy Care Center.

September

- Knights of Columbus from around the state supported St. Clare's Home by attending the fundraiser for St. Clare's on Daniel Island. Approx. 150,000 was raised.
- Special Olympics September 12-13 in Myrtle Beach. Knights of Columbus Council 11991, at Immaculate Conception in Goose Creek officiated the Bocce Ball Games.

ULTRASOUND INITIATIVE

- Msgr. Charles D. Wood, Council 5194 in Florence SC raised the necessary funds to donate an ultrasound machine worth over \$ 25,000 for A Choice to Make Pregnancy Resource Center.
- To date SC Knights of Columbus have placed 36 ultrasounds worth approx. \$ 1,321,762.

October

- Many of our brothers participated in the 40 Days for Life Fall Prayer Campaigns in SC. Campaigns were held in front of the abortion clinics in Greenville, Columbia, and Charleston.
- Council 6250 raised 9,100.66 by holding a Baby Bottle fundraiser to support St. Clare's.

Vivat Jesus!

Malcolm Brennan

SC State LD



Knights of Columbus South Carolina State Council

April 10, 2026

Worthy State Deputy and Brother Knights of the South Carolina State Council,

The State Community Director plays a vital role in gathering information, organizing efforts, and supporting initiatives that strengthen our communities. This leadership is essential to the success of our council's outreach and service programs.

There are eleven (11) Community Programs that our councils are called to serve those in need, with outreach efforts that reach our local communities and extend across the world.

- Soccer Challenge

Geared toward students aged 9 to 14, this penalty kick competition encourages local youth to participate and offers them the opportunity to compete at the state level. The results of SC State Council Soccer Challenge are then forwarded to Supreme for the International competition. Listed below are the results from the State Soccer Challenge on November 15th:

9 year old girls

Teodora Saes, Council 5194, District 12, Score: 155

9 year old boys

Luciano Medina, Council 5194, District 12, Score: 170

10 year old girls

Rae-Lynn Dirkson, Council 6884, District 6, Score: 130

10 year old boys

Emiliano Torres, Council 6884, District 6, Score: 120

11 year old girls

Aubrey Certain, Council 6884, District 6, Score: 90

11 year old boys

Bryson Hall, Council 5194, District 12, Score: 165

12 year old girls

Rubi Mata-Lopez. Council 6756, District 10, Score: 115

13 year old boys

Santiago Sanchez, Council 6847, District 2, Score: 135

- **Hockey Challenge**

In regions where hockey is popular, councils host youth competitions focused on shooting accuracy and goal scoring.

- **Helping Hands**

This flexible program provides guidance to councils wishing to partner with local aid organizations or to independently organize service opportunities for their communities.

- **Bright Futures**

Bright Futures invites councils to support students and schools. By providing resources and funding, councils help remove barriers to educational success for youth in need.

- **Habitat for Humanity**

Knights of Columbus partner with Habitat for Humanity to build homes for families at significantly reduced costs, improving lives and strengthening communities.

- **Global Wheelchair Mission**

Through partnerships, councils can purchase wheelchairs at a discount to distribute locally or through global donation sites.

- **SC State Free Throw Championship**

These championships are hosted by councils to promote sportsmanship and athleticism among children ages nine (9) through fourteen (14), providing outreach and engagement opportunities. Listed below are the boys and girls winners from the 9 to 14-year-old age group.

10 yr. Old Girls

Allison Billings; Council 5086; District 3; Score 20

11 yr. Old Girls

Emma Ferguson; Council 7122; District 3; Score 19

12 yr. Old Girls

Brynn Tollefson; Council 13112; District 8; Score 12

13 yr. Old Girls

Marley Rhodes; Council 7122; District 3; Score 13

9 yr. Old Boys

Timmy Sturge; Council 14475; District 15; Score 24

10 yr. Old Boys

Colton Marcengill; Council 6884; District 6; Score 20

11 yr. Old Boys

Boston Simpson; Council 14475; District 15; Score 22

12 yr. Old Boys

J.J. Foster; Council 10819; District 8; Score 16

13 yr. Old Boys

Tanner Daum; Council 14475, District 15; Score 24

- **Coats for Kids**

Through council-hosted events, over 1.5 million coats have been distributed to children in the United States and Canada. **Approaching 300,000 coats donated this fraternal year!**

Every year, Knights of Columbus answer Blessed Michael McGivney's call to serve the poor by clothing those in need through our Coats for Kids program. Thanks to your support in promoting this program to local councils, we are nearing an all-time high in coats donated this year - over 290,000 thus far! Please inform councils that coats are still available on Knightsgear.com. With your help, we will continue to grow this program and ensure no child is without a coat during these cold winter months.

The goal is to ensure that no child in North America is without a winter coat. As we prepare for the 2026-2027 fraternal year, Supreme will be implementing an initial cap on the number of Buy-One-Get-One (BOGO) cases each state may receive. For 2026-2027, our jurisdiction will be matched with up to **155 free BOGO cases**. This is an 11-case increase from last year. This adjustment will help us manage inventory more effectively and ensure equitable distribution across all jurisdictions.

Please continue to encourage your councils to purchase coats through Knightsgear to help expand the program beyond the BOGO allotment and ensure we can continue meeting the needs of children in every community.

- **Catholic Citizenship Essay Contest**

Annually, councils encourage students in grades 8 to 12 to participate in an essay contest that reinforces their faith and commitment to their communities. This year, the District participation was low. I challenge each Council and District to submit at least one essay to represent their district. A total of fourteen essays were submitted to the State Council from the Districts. Judging was conducted by an independent team with the following winners selected and submitted to Supreme for International competition. These results will be posted on the state website. Councils were responsible for recognizing the efforts of these students and the others who participated in the contest.

8th Grade Winner

Sabrina Nguyen
Council 5194

9th Grade Winner

Kamila Adames
Council 6756

10th Grade Winner

Arlene Vined
Council 11325

11th Grade Winner

Aubrey Burgei
Council 11325

12th Grade

No entries

- Disaster Preparedness

With more than 2 million members worldwide, the Knights are uniquely positioned to provide rapid assistance whenever disasters occur in our communities. Our extensive network ensures that we always have members ready to help when needed with disaster preparedness. The Knights are ready to step in when disasters strike, ensuring support and aid are available in our communities.

- Celebrating Our Catholic Heritage

The Knights honor the deep faith and diverse cultural heritage of councils, parishes, and the wider community. Celebrating Our Catholic Heritage allow us to celebrate the rich faith and cultural traditions of our councils, parishes, and communities. The Knights' diversity is a source of strength, and we are committed to honoring the deep roots of our Catholic heritage.

Respectfully Submitted,

*M. Eric Cannon, DD# 2
State Community Director*



Knights of Columbus South Carolina State Council

Columbus H.O.P.E. Foundation

Brother Knights, It's not just another day—it's an opportunity, a privilege, a blessing to be among men who have chosen to make a difference. We're more than an organization; we're a Brotherhood, united by faith and fueled by a purpose that's bigger than any one of us. We are men on a mission, men who understand that true success comes from serving others in the spirit and example of Jesus Christ!

The **Columbus HOPE Foundation** is living proof of what happens when people of faith put on their work clothes and get busy changing lives. As Scripture affirms, every person is made in God's image. That means every single life is precious, every soul is valuable, and every individual—yes, every individual—matters deeply to our Creator!

Now, here's where excitement meets reality: We are closer to reaching our year-end goal of \$329,850 than we've been in years—even closer than before COVID rocked our world. That's not luck; that's the power of teamwork, faith, and grit. I want to thank every Council for their relentless dedication and hard work—because without you, without your giving spirits, that goal would still be a dream. You are helping the Intellectually Disabled community of the Carolinas in ways that inspire hope and prove that miracles still happen.

Our purpose couldn't be clearer—we're here to bring hope, help, and heart to our friends and neighbors with intellectual disabilities and special needs throughout South Carolina. We don't do this because it's easy. We do it because it's right. We do it because **Jesus** commanded us to love our neighbor, and because charity isn't just a word—it's the way we live, the way we lead, the way we leave a legacy.

This past year, thanks to the boundless generosity of our councils, families, churches, and supporters, the Columbus HOPE Foundation marched forward. Your giving hearts have powered programs, lifted families, and restored dignity to men, women, and children who deserve every chance to shine. Let me say it with conviction: When we support those with intellectual disabilities, we aren't just offering help—we're affirming their worth, recognizing the divine image within them, and answering the call of the Gospel to build a community founded on love. Brothers, let's let that same spirit shape our faith communities! No one with special needs should ever be left out or left behind. Let's welcome them, teach them, include them, and love them as Jesus taught us. Adapted faith formation, making spiritual life accessible, and creating open, welcoming communities—these aren't just extras. They're at the heart of following Christ!

Our world is hungry for hope, in need of mercy, and desperate for people willing to say, "Here I am, Lord! Send me!" That's what the Knights of Columbus have always

done. That's what Columbus HOPE is all about. And that's what we must keep doing, together, every day.

So, from the bottom of my heart, thank you! Thank you to every council, every donor, every volunteer, and every family who's been a part of this mission. Your faith, your generosity, your love—they're making a difference. You're changing lives. You're planting seeds that will bear fruit for generations to come.

May God bless you abundantly. May God bless the Knights of Columbus. And may He keep His hand of favor on the Columbus HOPE Foundation. Remember: Go as far as you can see—and when you get there, you'll be able to see even further! God bless you all!

Michael A. Allen, PSD, DM
President/CEO
Columbus HOPE Foundation



Knights of Columbus South Carolina State Council

Dear Brothers in Christ,

I sincerely thank the South Carolina State Council for trusting me to serve as your Faith Director. As this is my first state position, I gained valuable insight into the role and its significance within the Knights of Columbus. Through this journey, my relationship with God strengthened, allowing me to grow in faith and better embody the principles of a practicing Catholic. This growth echoes what is emphasized in the lesson on Unity during our Exemplification of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity:

In a divided world, where many find it difficult to truly encounter God, Knights of Columbus families live their faith, fulfill their mission, and evangelize the world.

Faith in Action includes ten faith-based programs. Notable ones are the Into the Breach video series, which addresses Catholic men in a world seeking authentic masculinity; the Pilgrim Icon Program, where councils host a traveling icon and prayer services; and the Refund Support Vocations Program (RSVP), which partners with the diocese to support vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

Before I begin my year-end report, I want to share an impactful message from a Mass celebrated by Bishop Jacques in February 2026. During his homily, he revealed his mission for the Diocese of Charleston. He began by reminding us that Charleston is known as the “Holy City.” By the end of his homily, his mission was clear: to make South Carolina a “Holy State.” Brothers, whether you realize it or not, through participating in these programs, we help fulfill Bishop Jacques’ mission.

From the start of the 2025-2026 fraternal year to date, councils throughout the state have demonstrated remarkable commitment and impact. More than 8 councils held 35 Holy Hours, 8 of which were devoted to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, as part of the Pilgrim Icon program. Councils encouraged men to engage in deep, spiritual reflection by attending Cor gatherings, where they watched videos from the Into the Breach series and held open-table discussions. Other councils engaged youth by distributing religious education materials to the confirmands in their parishes. Councils implored the protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary over 100 times by praying the Rosary with their brothers and families in their parishes. Over 150 hours were spent in contemplative prayer and reflection, consisting of Eucharistic adoration, mens retreats, and

scripture meditation within groups like Men at Peace. By standing in solidarity with our priests and religious, councils provided moral, financial, and spiritual support to over 10 seminarians in the Diocese of Charleston. Finally, Knights throughout the state demonstrated their zeal and love for our Lord by participating in the celebration of the Holy Mass as ushers, lectors, Eucharistic ministers, greeters, and gift bearers. These tangible outcomes show how our united efforts are making a difference in our parishes and communities.

My Brother Knights, I extend my heartfelt thanks and gratitude for everything you do for your councils. As the 2025-2026 Fraternal Year is quickly coming to an end, I pray that you continue your involvement in the faith programs and encourage you to submit your participation via the Fraternal Programs Report Form.

Being a Knight of Columbus is like a direct invitation from Blessed Michael McGivney himself to evangelize the world through our continued acts of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity. Embrace your Knighthood as your vocation to show others what it means to be a practical Catholic in union with the Holy See. Together, we will make South Carolina known as the Holy State.

Vivat Jesus!

Jason Walsh

Faith Director

Knights of Columbus

South Carolina State Council



Knights of Columbus

South Carolina State Council

FAMILY DIRECTOR REPORT – 2026

The main things we focused on during the 2025/2026 year included for Catholic men and their families in the Knights of Columbus South Carolina Council included:

- Listening and learning about what different South Carolina Councils are doing to coordinate with existing activities.
- Developing practical guidelines for including Cor Initiative activities in different Council Family activities.
- Encouraging innovative ways to share the Catholic Faith within families like Catholic gardening and homesteading.
- Developing way to encourage multi-generational and multi-cultural activities in Knights of Columbus Council planning.
- Visit the Knights of Columbus Evangelism and Cor Initiative leaders in Connecticut to encourage collaboration and development of new ideas.

Highlights and Practical Results

One of the first things we did was to visit Knights of Columbus Council leaders in the Lake Wylie, Rock Hill, Spartanburg and Charleston area. This provided valuable information and ideas about what a variety of K of C Councils are doing.

Parish Visits to Encourage Cor Meetings. In addition to these Council visits I/we worked closely with Chris Ryder, South Carolina EFF to learn more about the Cor Initiative and how to implement several new and innovative approaches implementing Cor in parishes and Councils. We attended Cor Initiative meetings in Fort Mill, Rock Hill and other places.

Garden Box and Family Homestead Projects. In response to requests from several parish and Diocese Directors of Religious Education (DREs) we started several parish garden box planting projects where a short Scripture verse and/or Rosary will be used to initiate each workday. We are also showing several Catholic families how the plant their own gardens. Several of the Catholic parish priests and DREs have been actively supporting these projects as a way to help families offer “experiential” approach to catechesis.



Faith and Family Garden Box Project at St. Mary's Church in Rock Hill,

Visits to Knights Leaders in Connecticut. Another important Family life activity included visits to see Sean Pott the Senior Director of the Evangelism and the Cor Initiative, and Drew Dillingham, Director of Programs in Connecticut. My wife and I had an opportunity to visit Sean and his wife Emily and Drew and his wife Kim at their small homestead farms near Cheshire, Connecticut. By working with Sean, Drew and their wives we have several fun and practical family ministry projects that can be used for parish and family evangelism and formation during the remainder of 2026.

Chris Hardin

Family Director

K of C Palmetto Council



**Knights of
Columbus®**