



The Explorer

A Publication
of the
Kansas
Knights of Columbus

SPECIAL CONVENTION ISSUE

SUNDAY, MAY 7, 2017

Saturday Mass

116th Annual State Convention Banquet



Saturday's Mass was held in the Regency Ballroom of the Hotel. The Main Celebrant was Most Reverend Edward Weisenburger, Bishop of the Salina Diocese. Concelebrants were Most Reverend Carl Kemme, Reverend Dan Gardner, State Chaplain, and Priests from across the state.

Bishop Weisenburger began his homily stating that the Knights of Columbus are a bishop's best friend.

The first listeners were shocked by the new translation of the mass after Vatican II. It awakened in them a new knowledge. That his flesh is real food and his blood is real drink.

In recent years we have succumbed to murmur and grumble and eventually walking away from our faith thinking that Jesus was asking too much of us. We need to keep our ears open and maybe we will be shocked once again as first time listeners. In order to once again feel the need to make decisions.

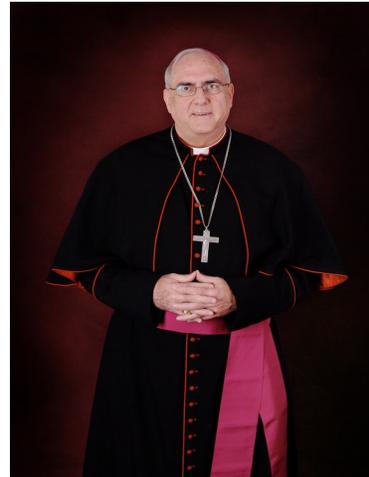
Keep walking with the Lord, cling to him in order to see the human Jesus.

"Where else would we go."

Kansas Catholic Conference

Michael Schuttloffel, Executive Director of the Kansas Catholic Conference, gave an update on legislative issues in Topeka.

We have been a voice trying to encourage the state to do something about predatory lending. The Bishop's endorsed Medicaid Expansion continues to be debated. We have had great success with a bill called Simon's Law, which prevents doctors from putting a Do Not Resuscitate order on a child without parental consent. Help is needed once again on school choice law, where corporations receive tax credits for supporting private schools including Catholic schools. Also the Kansas Supreme Court is considering striking down the ban on dismemberment abortions which could put all our pro-life laws in jeopardy. We are going to need the Knights!



The Convention Banquet Address was delivered by Most Reverend Joseph Naumann. The Archbishop began his address saying it was a joy to be here surrounded by Knights. He expressed his profound appreciation for the Knights.

Today's culture is in need of the Knights of Columbus and our catholic faith. We need to grow the ranks of this great army. Today's world lives in a moral innovation environment with misplaced compassion. There is no real truth and none of our families are immune to this.

We must evaluate our own choices and promote programs consistent with our Catholic beliefs. Ask yourself who in your life that is not a practicing catholic and pray for that person. Work on changing them one heart, one soul and one person at a time. Do this in order to share our great gift. We have to become the Catholic evangelical people that God wants us to be in order to grow vibrant Catholic families.

The church teaches what it does because we love people, we want the best for them and we want them to thrive. We want them to be the best that they can be.

God wants all to know his love!

DofI Donates \$1,000.00 to Kansas Knights of Columbus for maintenance of current sonogram machines.



Pictured: State Regent Lynn Kasper presenting the check to State Deputy Vincent Melvin III.

Squire of the Year Seth Aistrup

The 2016 – 2017 Squire of the Year is Seth Aistrup. Seth is a member of Holy Trinity Circle 4743 in Paola. He is 12 years old and a student at Holy Trinity School in Paola. His parents are Greg and Kendra Aistrup. Greg is an insurance claims agent and Kendra is a wife and mother. Seth has two siblings: Ben and Racheal.

Seth joined the Squires on January 12th, 2014. He currently serves the Holy Trinity Circle as a Notary and Spiritual Leader. He participates in the Circle's annual Squires Chili Bingo event, fish fries with the Paola Knights Council and Can Collection to raise funds for the Circle. Seth has donated labor to install landscape items to the winning bidder at the Holy Trinity Parish Auction. He can always be found attending the regular business meetings for the Paola Circle.

Seth has been a regular Mass Server at Holy Trinity Parish and is also a greeter before Mass. He is a member of the Holy Trinity Youth Group and helps with fund raising events. Seth is very active and regularly participates in activities benefiting his school and community.

Congratulations to Seth Aistrup.

Squires Circle of the Year Holy Trinity Circle 4743, Paola

The 2016 - 2017 Squires Circle of the Year Award goes to Holy Trinity Circle 4743 in Paola. The Circle remains active under the direction of Counselor Greg Aistrup and Chief Squire Carter Holub. The Circle is sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council 1149 in Paola.

The Holy Trinity Circle continues to focus on charity and community involvement. This past year the Circle hosted a Chili Bingo event to raise funds for the youth within the Holy Trinity Parish. These funds were used to help with expenses for the youth attending the National Catholic Youth Conference in Indianapolis. Total funds raised for the event were \$548.68. A follow up event for the same cause was held in conjunction with the Knights Council 1149 fish fry and funds in excess of \$300.00 were raised.

The Circle has added seven new members in the past year and continues to grow at a rapid pace. The Circle also maintains the aluminum can recycling station at the Holy Trinity School. Proceeds are donated to Parish and Community causes including the Parish Auction and Youth Group. The Circle also has plans to help with the Parish Building and Grounds Committee to assist in completing projects to improve their facilities.

Congratulations to Holy Trinity Circle 4743 of Paola.

Culture of Life Winners

1st Council 1163 Axtell This council placed cribs in three separate churches to collect baby items and donations. Their efforts raised \$4,468.00 to support Mary's Choices in Topeka and the "Baby's Best Start Program". There were 7 members (3%) involved for a total of 12 man hours.

2nd Council 11352 Tonganoxie This council hosted a Baby Bottle Boomerang Event. The council distributed bottles among participating parishioners to collect spare change. Their efforts raised \$3,574.90 to support the Wyandotte Pregnancy Center in Kansas City. There were 46 members (25%) involved for a total of 45 man hours.

3rd Council 1743 Hanover This council was actively involved in raising money for Right to Life projects by building two new highway signs, supporting the ultrasound initiative, Hanover Kansans for Life and Birthright of Manhattan. They also supported Pro-Life Rally trips to Topeka and Washington D.C. There were 50 members (30%) involved for a total of 1800 man hours.



Squires Counselor of the Year Greg Aistrup

The 2016 – 2017 Squires Counselor of the Year is Greg Aistrup. Greg is a member of Paola Council 1149 and works as an insurance claims agent. Greg and his wife, Kendra, live in Paola and have three children: Seth, Ben, and Rachael.

Greg has been an integral part in the growth of Holy Trinity Circle 4743 in Paola. He has advised Circle members, regularly attended business meetings and has lead the Circle when needed. Greg's advice and ideas on how to increase membership has been instrumental to the growth of the Circle. He is always involved in the Circle events and his efforts have increased the strength of the organization.

Greg is currently the Family Life Director for Council 1149 in Paola. He is known as a tremendous contributor to Council events and offers guidance on Council issues and programs.

Congratulations to Greg Aistrup.

Alcohol Awareness & Abuse Poster Winners

Age 8-11 Division
Sophia Nguyen
12858 Wichita-St. Anne
District 32

Drug Awareness & Abuse Poster Winners

Age 8-11 Division
Mia Luna
12858 Wichita-St. Anne
District 32

Age 12-14 Division
Lucia Sauer
12858 Wichita-St. Anne
District 32

Upcoming Major Degrees

Date	Host DD	Host Council	Location
May 21	6	3020	Fairway-St. Agnes
May 21	31	2217	Andale
May 21	50	1539	Spearville
June 11	26	1029	Junction City
June 11	51	2866	Oakley
June 11	35	691	Wichita
June 16	20	7769	Osage City

Church Activities Awards

1st Council 2955 Dodge City This council performed restoration projects on the Sacred Heart Cathedral and Sacred Heart Cathedral High School for their 100 year Centennial celebration. The Cathedral pews were removed and reset, plumbing fixtures were replaced, walls were repaired and painted, a cedar fence was built, landscaping was completed and the parking lot was repaired and painted. There were 80 members (20%) involved for a total of 600 man hours

2nd Council 12932 Eudora This council provided labor and materials to remove an old tile floor and install a new ceramic tile floor in the 4,000 sq. ft. parish hall for the Holy Family Catholic Church in Eudora. The project was completed to accommodate those attending the funeral of their parish priest. There were 45 members (48%) involved for a total of 393 man hours

3rd Council 1163 Axtell This council provided labor to remove concrete and an old deck on the parish rectory. A new deck with stairs and railings was constructed from composite materials. Drain tile was installed and new concrete was poured. There were 38 members (15%) involved for a total of

Community Activity Winners

1st Council 11352 Tonganoxie This Council helped repair a home for a disabled couple in the Parish. The repairs prevented the couple from losing insurance on their home. There were 24 members (13%) involved for a total of 486 man hours

2nd Council 1149 Paola This Council held a fish fry in partnership with many local community groups to benefit their local Robotics Club. There were 36 members (24%) involved for a total of 248 man hours.

3rd Council 2114 Aurora This Council organized and held a pack rat hunt in the community to control the population of rats. There were 14 members (20%) involved for a total of 28 man hours.

Free Throw Champions

GIRLS	NAME	LOCATION	SCORE
9	Elle Robinson	Lenexa	19
10	Mia Eskina	Shawnee	20
11	Taeben Stallbaumer	Hanover	20
12	Trinity Lutters	Montezuma	21
13	Jennah Jeffrey	Hoisington	21
14	Cadlee Stallbaumer	Hanover	21/5

BOYS	NAME	LOCATION	SCORE
9	Jackson Stanfield	Plains	20
10	Will Wegerer	Cunningham	21
11	Isaac Detweiler	Summerfield	22/5
12	William Rost	Overland Park	23
13	Mark Bogner	Galesburg	24
14	Caden Parthemer	Mount Hope	24

Commitment to Humanities Awards

(Highest Dollar per Member)

Div 1:	Council 12016	Ashland	\$ 51.22
Div 2:	Council 7291	Eureka	\$ 25.96
Div 3:	Council 3210	Dighton	\$ 46.18
Div 4:	Council 10211	Fort Hays State	\$ 20.36
Div 5:	Council 2296	Eldorado	\$ 32.78
Div 6:	Council 5212	Scott City	\$ 53.88
Div 7:	Council 8491	Garden City-St. Dominic	\$ 67.61
Div 8:	Council 6761	Haysville	\$ 34.79
Div 9:	Council 976	Newton	\$ 23.24
Div 10:	Council 4458	Derby	\$ 28.41

District Deputy #49 Todd Lutters is the winner of the highest District Dollar per Member award with \$ 31.33 per member.

Youth Activities Awards

1st Council 3316 Scammon "KofC Youth Fishing Derby" The purpose of the activity was to get the youth involved and enjoy the outdoors. The kids were taught how to properly fish. Twelve youth from ages 4 to 13 participated in the Fishing Derby. Prizes were given for the most fish caught and the largest fish caught. This council donated \$500.00 for prizes and cooked hamburgers and hotdogs for the kids.

2nd Council 1163 Axtell "Soup and Santa Day" The purpose of the activity was to get the children to come see Santa and see the Knights working together making soup. This council prepared and served Turkey Noodle Soup and Chili. At noon, Santa arrived to visit with the children and give out prizes. \$1,510.00 was raised from the event and donated to Debra Eagan, a young lady with Leukemia.

3rd Council 1149 Paola "Fish Fry with Squires Circle and Holy Trinity Youth Group" The purpose of the activity was to promote a sense of bonding between the Knights and the youth group in the Holy Trinity Parish, to assist the youth group in attending the National Catholic Youth Conference and to form a partnership to provide financial support for the Squires. This council partnered with the Squires Circle and the Holy Trinity Youth Group for a Lenten fish fry. The event provided a great opportunity for the members of the council to interact with the youth.

Retiring District Deputies



During the Saturday morning Awards Presentation, State Deputy Vincent Melvin III presented the retiring District Deputies an appreciation certificate and thanked them for their outstanding service on behalf of the State and Supreme Councils.

Tony Tanking	DD 1	Carl N. Schuetz	DD 4	Greg Beck	DD 5	Joseph E. James	DD 11
Nick Hernandez	DD 15	Steve Prockish	DD 23	Randy Testa	DD 26	Terry Bohm	DD 28
Josh Ebenkamp	DD 30	Scott Krier	DD 37	John "Jay" Theis	DD 50		

Council Activities Awards

1st Council 6817 Iola This council installed a corpus on a previously erected steel cross at St John Cemetery. This was done so everyone would know the cemetery was a Catholic cemetery. There is now a Crucifix at St. John Cemetery that can be clearly seen from the road. There were 5 members (5%) involved for a total of 22.5 man hours.

2nd Council 1149 Paola This council prepared smoked pork for sales to Holy Trinity parishioners and others as a money making project for the council. The profit of \$1,268.00 was donated to charities. There were 29 members (19%) involved for a total of 141 man hours.

3rd Council 6817 Iola This council held a pancake and sausage breakfast to raise money for a scholarship fund and Pennies From Heaven. The council prepared 300 lbs. of sausage and served it with pancakes, scrambled eggs, coffee and juice. The council profited \$810.39 from this event. There were 36 members (39%) involved for a total of 120 man hours.

Family Activities Winners

1st Council 1163 Axtell "Awesome Dinner Helps Three Families" This council organized an "all you can eat" dinner to financially benefit three families that had suffered a serious accident and two tragedies. 807 people attended the dinner and were served 470 lbs of shrimp, 438 lbs of pork chops and 390 lbs. of frog legs. The \$9,000.00 profit from the dinner was distributed to the three families.

2nd Council 16595 Olathe "Advent Worship Night" This family activity was developed to help families come together and pray. The parish and entire community benefited from the event. Speakers were invited for the evening and music added to the enjoyment. This council donated food for the evening and over 300 people came together in the name of Christ.

3rd Council 5781 Ulysses "Fall Fest" This council and their families gathered the evening prior to the Grant County Chamber of Commerce Fall Fest and prepared brats, green peppers and Pico de Gallo. In addition to preparing and selling the food, this council passed out Tootsie Rolls and accepted donations for the Special Olympics. These Knights of Columbus families invited other families in the community to enjoy a community event in Charity, Unity and Fraternity.

Evangelium Vitae Award

Winners by Diocese

Dodge City Diocese:	Council 2352	Ransom
Wichita Diocese:	Council 10483	Wichita-St. Anne
Salina Diocese:	Council 1325	Hays
Kansas City Archdiocese:	Council 4708	Atchison-Benedictine

State Winner

Kansas City Archdiocese: Council 4708 Atchison-Benedictine

Vocation Poster Contest Winners

Grade	Name	Dist.	Council	
1-2	Julianne Ella	8	11661	OP-Holy Spirit
3-4	Nick Robben	51	2773	Angelus
5-6	Joshua Zarybnicky	21	1743	Hanover
7-8	Erin Hammeke	39	1187	Ellinwood
Special Needs	Mathew J. Hoover	29	7279	Hutchinson

The overall state winner is **Erin Hammeke**

Culture Of Life Awards

176 Councils Donated \$397,095.11

District Deputy Award

James M. "Jim" Carlson, District 14 - \$34.95 per member

Div	Council		Amt / Member
1	2728	Caldwell	\$ 62.13
2	1086	Solomon	\$ 108.94
3	6665	Bird City/St. Francis	\$ 41.00
4	6817	Iola	\$ 143.13
5	1142	Concordia	\$ 30.11
6	3273	Larned	\$ 60.00
7	3321	Hoxie	\$ 40.10
8	11352	Tonganoxie	\$ 53.79
9	13012	Topeka-St. Matthew	\$ 22.21
10	2937	Garden Plain	\$ 95.34

**2016-2017 Kansas State
Family of the Year
Robert and Margie Tastove
From Westphalia Council 1052**



It is with great pride that the Kansas State Council announces the 2016-2017 Knights of Columbus State Family of the Year: The Robert and Margie Tastove Family, St. Teresa Parish, Council 1052 Westphalia.

The Tastoves reside in Westphalia, Kansas and are active members of the St. Teresa Parish in Westphalia. Every Sunday morning, Robert and Margie can be found getting the Eucharistic Gifts ready before mass. With the help of the family, Margie and her sister decorate the church for special occasions. Both Robert and Margie have served on the St Teresa Parish Council and are Extraordinary Eucharistic Ministers. Margie has served the Parish as a Religious Education teacher. Even though their children live over 20 miles away in different directions, parishioners are impressed to see them travel to St. Teresa Parish in Westphalia to attend Mass as a family with Robert and Margie.

Robert and Margie Tastove have been married for thirty-five years. They have been blessed with five children and nine grandchildren. Robert and Mary come from large families as Robert has nine siblings and Margie has fourteen siblings.

Robert has been an active member of Council 1052 for forty-one years. In this time, he has served as Deputy Grand Knight, Grand Knight, Trustee, Advocate and has served on numerous committees as needed. Robert participates in all council functions, attends monthly meetings, and helps recruit new members including his sons in law. Robert's dedication to the Knights can be seen in his sons. They are also very active Knights of Columbus members.

The Tastoves are active in their community by helping with the annual Christmas Parade, supporting Westphalia Days events, and participating in other group activities that happen in small towns. They also enjoy attending their grandchildren's events.

The Robert & Margie Tastove family has been an integral part of the Church, Youth, Community, and Knights of Columbus for many years. They are well deserving to hold the title as "Family of the Year".

**2016-2017 Kansas State
Knight of the Year
Michael Waite
From WaKeeney Council 4113**



The Kansas State Council is pleased to present the 2016-2017 Knights of Columbus State Knight of the Year Award to Michael Waite, WaKeeney Council 4113.

Mike joined the Order in 1971. Since that time, he has demonstrated the principles of our Order and has been involved in numerous activities for his council, parish, and community. Mike and his wife Connie have been blessed with four children and seven grandchildren. Mike is a retired district conservationist for the National Resources Conservation Service and Connie is a retired pharmacy technician.

Mike has held numerous council offices including Financial Secretary and was selected as the District Knight of the Year in 2000. He has chaired and assisted in many of the Council's fund raisers. He has also served as co-chair for the Council's fish fry and the annual Council Social. Mike participates in the weekly parish rosary for Pro-life and the sick and has organized Pro-life Baby Showers. He organized a prayer service when the Silver Rose passed through his parish and when the Holy Family Icon passed through his district. He is always volunteering to get refreshments for monthly meetings and collects donations for the annual Tootsie Roll Drive.

Mike is often called on by Christ the King Parish in Wakeeney. He has built a Christmas manger and barn scene, built tables, repaired pews and kneelers, installed a window in the confessional door and assisted in the installation of windows and siding on the rectory. Mike assists with the mowing of the parish cemetery and the semiannual cleaning of church. Mike has served his parish as a Religious Education teacher, CYO sponsor and Extraordinary Eucharistic Minister. He has served on the Parish Council and takes communion to the homebound.

Mike has served on the local KSU Extension Board, the Kansas Crossroads R.C.&D. Board, and as a 4-H leader. He currently serves on the local Hospital Endowment Board, works with a community parish ministry group and is a member of the local FFA Alumni Organization. Mike is always assisting the elderly in his community however he can.

The Kansas State Council is proud to honor Michael Waite as our: "Knight of the Year".