



THE TARHEEL KNIGHT

The Official Publication of the North Carolina
Knights of Columbus

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Greetings to one and all from Fayetteville! Gina and I truly hope that this issue of the Tar Heel Knight finds you well, in good spirits and preparing for the Lenten Season!

Thanks to one and all for your participation in the Mid-Year meetings held in Mooresville and Fayetteville. Whether you were part of the host councils, a presenter or one of the so many dedicated Fraternal Leaders that attending to hear the messaging from the supreme and state councils, we wanted to take this moment to thank you. Much information was exchanged. If you were not able to attend, I would ask that you contact your District Deputy or your Regional Membership and Program Consultant to find out the information conveyed.

Now with the mid-years over, it is time to start looking forward to the second half of the year. Belonging to a parish that is served by the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales, we had the opportunity this past weekend to celebrate St. Francis de Sales' feast day. As our pastor preached his homily, he reminded us of the simple, yet complex, philosophy of St. Francis. He said to do those ordinary things in life in an extraordinary way, and to live Jesus. Find a way to inspire by your loving action.

In many ways, you, my Brother Knights, do just that. From serving in the various ministries in your Church, to all the innumerable programs in which your council participates, to helping so many of those less fortunate in your works of charity. I can't help but to be humbled by your service to others. Thank you!!

Continued next page...

STATE OFFICERS

State Deputy: Colin Jorsch
Chaplain: Father Lesak
Secretary: John Nussbaum
Treasurer: Dan Lange
Advocate: JC Reiher
Warden: Chris Losack
Immediate Past Deputy: Jack Murray



Regional District Deputies

#1: John Horvat
 #2: Tom Smith
 #3: Boyce Williams
 #4: Sergio Miranda
 #5: Richard Hamel
 #6: Wayne Kleven

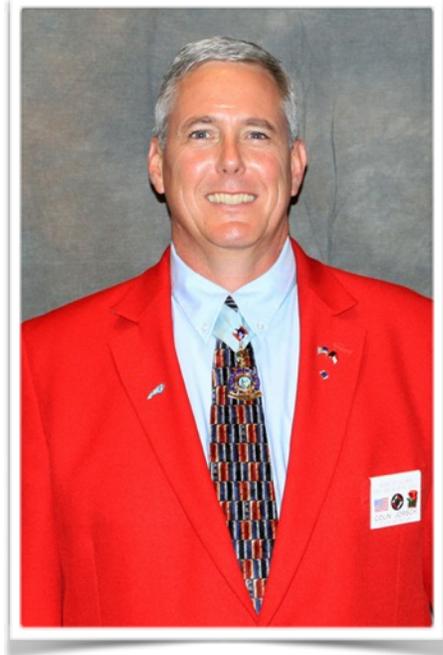
STATE DEPUTY (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

As we move forward, and I am sure that many others will be reminding you, we will be very soon beginning to celebrate all of that service. I ask that you, fraternal leaders, take the time to recognize the efforts of your council and our Brother Knights in the many different ways offered in the Council Recognition Program Manual. A good place to start would be the “Countdown to Convention” that was handed out during the mid-year or available at kofcnc.org. I realize that we ask much of you in regards to the amount of reports and paperwork that are required. I would suggest that perhaps you, as a fraternal leader, could find someone in your council that might be able to help.

As I say in most of our state meetings, I love you guys. Again, it’s okay as Jesus tells us to “love our neighbors as ourselves.” You Knights and your families are really out there making a difference in our councils, communities and most importantly our Church!! Thank-you for all you do, until next time - Peace in Christ!

Colin Jorsch

State Deputy



NEW MEMBERS

November

Peter Sienkwicz	Thomas O'Connor	Amparo Aybar-Ortiz
Benny Huie	Javier Nolasco	Diego Perez
Isaias Murillo	Carlos Garcia	John Sainworla
Rev. Christopher Van Haught	Terrence Cunningham	Matthew Lokkesmoe
Michel Beaudoin	Jose Dominguez	Ramiro Praz-Castorena
Sebastien Sanchez	Rev. Nohe Torres	Jose Serrano
Stephen Fortin	Stephen Bragg	Jose Chimalpopoca
Rev. Bryant Digal	S. Ryan Hennessee	Matthew Schefers
Derrick Roberts	Dr. Antonio Ruiz	Richard Kovacs
Martin Cantero-Botances	Arturo Ventura-Alejandro	Charles Peterson
David Sovacool	Bryan Tollinger	Dave Lescinski
Ronald Boisvert	John Blakeney	Nathan Garretson
Gary Benitez	Charles Phelps	Donald Bourdon
Michael Maguire	Joseph Mirco	Rev. Julio Dominguez
Joseph Falsone	Austin Benoit	Miguel Da Silva
Matthew Hall	Paul Jack	Matthew Lohff
Brandon Morroni	Dominique Morgan	Paul Walsh
Francisco Lopez	Kevin Martinez	Joseph Bruno
Gerard Rine	John Oshman	Brenden Flick
Felix Quedraogo	Rafael Arvelo	Samuel Waters
Christopher Plum	Sean O'Brien	Dan Curran
Refugio Bravo Perez	Raymond Millet	Marco Antonio García
Jospeh Falciglia	Michael Pucciarelli	Richard Duttine
Robert Hammond	Charlton Eugenio	Michael Engelbert
Jose Alvarado	Cameron Lahren	Rudy Cruz
John Camero	Armando Olvera Garcia	Eric Rosario Ramos

NEW MEMBERS

December

John Kristian	Ernest Prent, Sr	Mark McCloskey
Michael Magee	Ethan Krumnow	Immanuel Israel
John Fearheller	William Connors	Robert Heffernan
Steven Moore	Theodore Lafond	John Metzinger
Luis Fitz	Daniel Esposito	Francis Schultz
Anthony Quick, Sr	Tom Hicks	Frank Rosenquist
Kevin Tran	Leonidas Fajardo	Scott Robinson
Aaron Castillo	Roger Healey	Ubaldo Herrera
Jorge Reyes, Jr	John Sims	Ronald McGrath
Joseph Thomason	Joseph Holt	Thomas Wilmot
James Treadway	John Ross	David Fuller
Ryan Gurganious	Lawrence Upton	Timothy Conroy
Mauro Robbe	Edward Gannon	Dr. Edwin Garcia
Joseph Csuka	Daniel Howard	Victor Fernandez
Michael Salerno	David Mancipe	Herbert Ochoa
Gerard Rendell	John Calligan	Chris Crabb
Fernando Maldonado-Medina	Patrick Brinsfield	Carlos Perez
Rev. William Waun	Cory Kaminski	Matthew Hall
Miguel Esquilin-Elicier	Ángel Hernández	Joseph Lawrence
Everett Hicks	Eraldo Vazquez	Niel Arzate
Eligio Salvador	Fermin Marcelino-Rios	

STATE WARDEN

Brothers All, Vivat Jesus!

It was great to see so many of you at the Mid Year Meetings last month. I want to thank everyone that submitted their Form 1728 (Survey of Fraternal Activity) and Form 4584 (Report of Special Olympics) early and brought hard copies to the meeting as directed. You helped make my job much easier. I also want to thank all of you that were patient and filled out the forms on-site to make sure that North Carolina achieves 100% compliance again this year. I hope that based upon the presentation regarding making STAR Council you understand the importance of each of these forms and achieving their deadlines.

Speaking of achieving STAR Council, for most Councils in this state this is not an unrealistic goal. Let's refresh ourselves from the discussions at the Mid Year Meeting on what it takes to achieve STAR Council. First, the Council must achieve its membership and insurance quotas. As stated, this is not an unrealistic goal for most Councils. For those Councils that believe it is too lofty of a goal, work with your District Deputy and Field Agent and they will make it become more realistic and achievable. Another criteria is to conduct service programs in each of the program areas. Again, this is likely something that you are already doing, you just need to report them in June on the Form SP7. The Council must also remain in good standing with Supreme requiring payment of dues assessments and submitting Council audits. Again, this is something that the Council does as a matter of course in doing Council business. Easy so far, right? Well the final requirements are the ones that are the easiest to do, but often we don't think they are important and forget about them. These requirements are the reporting requirements. As already mentioned, you must report your service program activity on the Form SP7 due in June, you must submit the service personnel information on Form 365 due last July, and you must submit the Survey of Fraternal Activity on Form 1728 due on January 31st. This is the reason that I spend so much time talking about the importance of submitting your forms. Not to harass you, but to make sure that an oversight does not prevent your Council from being recognized for all the hard work that it does. It is always a shame when a Council has done all the work necessary to achieve STAR status, but fails to earn their award due to the lack of submitting a form.

Finally, your Council should have already completed the audit for the second half of 2015. I have been receiving copies of audits since early January which shows me that many Councils are really on the ball. Having the Form 1295-2 in file with Supreme is one of the criteria needed to maintain your good standing mentioned above. If you have not conducted your audit, Grand Knights please get with your Trustees and schedule this ASAP. This submission is due on February 15th, so time is running short. Please remember to always copy your District Deputy and State Deputy on any form submissions.

As always, if there is anything that I can do to assist you in any manner, please do not hesitate to reach out. That is what I am here for, to help you in any possible way.

*Vivat Jesus,
Chris Losack
State Warden*



MEMBERSHIP

Membership

Greetings Fellow Knights from your 2015 Membership Team.
 Bob Hack Membership Director hackbob42@atmc.net,
 Peter Devlin Membership Chairman pdevlin@twc.com
 Dave Benes Retention Chairman davebenes@embarqmail.com
 Open Recruiting East Chairman,
 Harry Fear Recruiting West Chairman fearharry@yahoo.com,
 Rick Scherer New Council Development Chair r.scherer@earthlink.net
 Bill Atwood Council Retention Chairman atwood@3rddoor.com
 Chris Sprissler College Council Coordinator sprizz115@gmail.com
 Jack Dambaugh Supreme Advertising Coordinator jdambaugh@atmc.net
 Bob Hall Round Table Chairman bohnancyhall@charter.net
Contact us at any time you have a question or need assistance.



Brothers. We are still on the right track, Through Jan 20th we are at 59% of our goal and #1 in our District. All we have to do is keep it going. DD's, There are 22 Councils that have not installed a single new brother this year. How can we help you??

Regional membership training has been completed by Regions 1, 2 and 6. We are Training Region 3 on March 12th. Regions 4 & 5. Please contact the Membership Director to schedule your session. All of Feb and March are available except the 12th. The only blackout dates as of now are, April 8th through the 23rd and we should be completed long before then. With all the changes in the Retention cycle this year it will be best to complete the training as soon as possible, before your councils get too far into their retention process.

Round Tables are still an issue if we are to attain Circle of Honor Status. If you need help or just have some questions contact Bob Hall the Round Table Chairman. .

Again, our goals for Circle of Honor for 2015-16 are:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 900 New brothers | We need 368 |
| 585 brothers net of drops | We need 124 |
| 315 new brothers net of all losses and gains | We are at 105% need zero |
| 25 Star Councils (11/1) | 14 councils have their Recruiting, 13 have Insurance. 4 Have both |
| 1 new council per Diocese. A total of 2 | in the works now |
| 3 reactivations. | Kinston is getting close |
| 30 Round Tables Need 13 more | |

Good news on the insurance goal. The \$100.00 annuity is back as of January... Take \$100 out of one pocket and put it in your other pocket and you are an insurance member. You will be surprised how quick it will grow.

We are on our way to a great year just keep the momentum going. Our Goals are readily attainable if we work together as a team. We recruit new members to grow the Order. Growing the order enables us to do more good and make a difference in our Church, Family, Community, our Brothers lives and Our own.

Reminder It's time to solidify your recruiting plans for the last half of the year. Do you have your Blitz kit? Is the Super Bowl party ready to go? What are you going to do to close the year strong in May and June? Not much good happens without a plan.

One New Member Per Council Per Month

VIVAT JESUS!

Bob Hack 910-754-2647

STATE CHANCELLOR

Worthy All and Brothers:

For those who did not have the opportunity to view and listen to Supreme's Webinar presentation on Saturday January 23, 2016 there was a lot of information in reference to Star Council. The presentation has been recorded and is on the Supreme webpage at www.kofc.org. I would recommend that all council officers spend some time listening to the great advice the presenters made.



Remember that Form 1728 Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity was due at the Mid-Year meeting. I realize the due date on the form indicates a due date of January 31; however in North Carolina we have had a long tradition of presenting a completed form at the Mid-Year meeting. The State presents the completed forms to Supreme prior to January 31st and over the years we have close to or at the 100% submission rate. If you have not submitted your Form 1728 please send it to Supreme prior to January 31st.

There are still several districts that have not appointed a District Warden. Again, I ask the District Deputies that have not appointed a warden to do so as soon as possible.

We are now on the downside of our fraternal year. With less than 5 months left in our fraternal year I would ask that all councils look at their numbers, especially Membership and Insurance. As history dictates obtaining insurance members often proves the most difficult numbers to obtain. Since your council is aiming for Star Council I would suggest that you contact and work with your Insurance Agent in working up a plan to obtain insurance members. If your council does not have an Insurance Agent assigned give the General Insurance Agent a call and ask for his suggestions. If membership numbers are your problem Grand Knights should work with their Membership Director and Pastor to obtain dates at church for a membership drive. One of the best membership tools is by having members visible in and about the church. In seeing the great work that we do for our churches parishioners take notice.

Vince Cerullo
State Chancellor

GENERAL PROGRAMS DIRECTOR

Brothers All,

I hope that this finds everyone safe and warm as the winter month's progress. Please take time to make sure that all of your Brothers are also safe and warm, especially those who are home bound and of course keep in contact with the widows of those Brothers who are no longer with us.

I want to thank all of you for your attendance at the mid-year meetings and congratulate those Councils that were acknowledged for their winning programs. It is truly a testament to Fr. McGivney to see what everyone is doing throughout the state. There were over 225 programs submitted and I am continually amazed at some of the work you are doing. We are truly making a difference by our brotherly love that we are constantly showing to everyone. All of the winning programs are now posted on the State's Web page for you to read and possibly get some ideas from. Use these ideas to challenge your Councils into doing something new and exciting for the upcoming year. Let's keep up the great work.

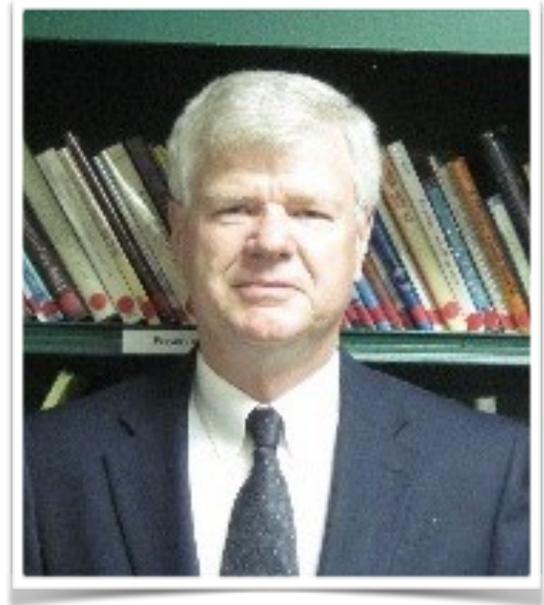
All Grand Knights should have received a "Count Down to Convention" sheet in a packet that was given to each of them at the Mid-Year meetings. Between now and April 1 there is a lot of work to do for you Grand Knights to complete. Along with your regular duties there is the Priest of the Year, Family of the Year, Fathers for Good, the Golden Knight of the Year, Knight of the Year, Rookie of the Year, the Fraternal Year Record, the Newsletter, and the Website submittals need to be submitted by April 1, 2016. All of the requirements for these submittals are listed on the State's Web page Site Map under "Annual Awards Guidelines". Also there are the other program submittals that you need to submit to me for judging, also by April 1st. You can find all of this information at www.kofcnc.org Please don't delay in these submittals. Start to work on them now and that way you will not be rushed into an incomplete or poorly written submittal.

By now all of you should have also heard about the new Supreme Knights initiative that was presented to all State Deputies and was also presented at the Mid-Year meetings. This initiative stated a new direction that we as councils should consider as we go forward with our charitable programs. While this provides us with some challenges, I believe that this move is what our founder wanted us to do as an organization. By being more church based, and working alongside our parish priest more closely, we can accomplish more through our efforts in the principals set out by Father McGivney with our brothers and sisters that need our support and prayers. The Program Directors will be providing some guidance in their programs that will better assist you in understanding these matters in the upcoming future. Please stay tuned for their leadership in this matter.

Please let me know if there is anything that I can do to assist you in these or any Council matters.

Vivat Jesus

Paul Spire, General Program Director



CULTURE OF LIFE

Marches and 40 days for Life

Our warriors in Charlotte are marching in response to the 58 million babies that have been brutally butchers by the abortion industry since 1973 and the decision of 9 unelected judges who were appointed by partisan politics. By the time you read this the Marches across the country will have been completed and everyone will feel good that they attended and did their duty to support life and look forward to the next year when they can march again.

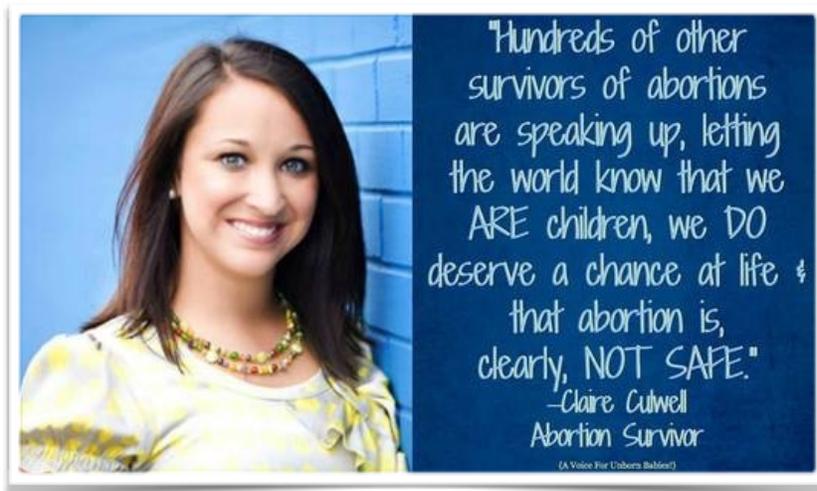
NOTICE: It doesn't end with just a March on the Nations Capital or any where else. It will only end when it becomes unlawful to have an abortion and with it being enforced throughout this country. We have lost an entire nation to abortion, and we are losing our nation because we are killing our future. Your efforts must continue year round. Find out which National Program is next in line for your support. Do not support Politicians who accept campaign donations from the Abortion industry because they will surely vote against anti abortion laws. Our government must be shown that we will not stand for it anymore. Get the corruption out of politics and start doing what is morally responsible for the people of this great country.

February 10 begins the National 40 Days for Life Campaign and we need now more than ever to display are dissatisfaction with people who make their living off of killing babies. Get out and support your local 40 Days for Life campaign or start your own. With a tremendous showing we will not only get our point across but we will also save lives of the unborn so that they may have a chance at the promise of this country of Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. None of this is possible for them with man playing judge and deciding to end their lives for selfish reasons.

40 Days for Life (<https://40daysforlife.com/>) gives you all the information and the locations of events across this nation. Please visit that site and sign up for your prayer vigil in front of an abortion clinic.



CULTURE OF LIFE (CONTINUED)



Claire Culwell -
Abortion
Survivor and
Pro-Life
Speaker.

www.claireculwell.com

58,586,256 ABORTIONS IN AMERICA SINCE ROE V. WADE IN 1973

NATIONAL - STEVEN ERTELT JAN 14, 2016 | 7:19PM WASHINGTON, DC

National Right to Life estimates that, since the U.S. Supreme Court legalized abortion 43 years ago in Roe v. Wade and Doe v. Bolton, more than 58 million unborn children have lost their lives. Each one of those abortions is a tragedy, not just because an innocent child died, but because of the lasting impact the abortion itself had on the mothers of those children.

Since 1968, the National Right to Life Committee has been working to protect unborn children and their mothers from the tragedy of abortion. In the aftermath of the Court's decisions on January 22, 1973, our network of state affiliates, local chapters, and citizen activists have worked tirelessly to enact laws that protect unborn children and offer life-affirming alternatives to their mothers. And we continue to see evidence that this strategy is working.

In late November 2015, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention found a 4.2% drop in the number of abortions for the 2012 reporting year. While the CDC only includes and compares data from 47 state health departments, the information we can glean from this latest information gives us reason for hope that Americans, and especially women facing unexpected pregnancies, are rejecting abortion.

All of this is welcome news and confirms what we have long known: pro-life education and legislative efforts are making an impact on our culture and in the lives of women facing unexpected pregnancies.

This third annual "State of Abortion in the United States" looks at where we are on the 43rd anniversary of Roe v. Wade and Doe v. Bolton. In this presidential election year, we also take moment in these pages to review presidential actions on the life issues, starting with President Barack Obama, and going back to President Ronald Reagan. While we estimate that more than one million unborn children are still being aborted every year, we know that we will ultimately be successful, because at our core as a society, we know the immutable truth: killing unborn children is wrong.

Abortions rose quickly and topped the million a year mark in 1975 and hit an annual 1.5 million in 1980. They peaked at 1.6 million in 1990, but began dropping in subsequent years. After appearing to level off around 1.2 million in the mid 2000s, the most recent national reports shows the annual total back down to just over one million, and declining abortion rates and ratios show that this is not merely a statistical anomaly. National Right to Life now estimates, based on these data from the Guttmacher Institute and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC), that the total number of abortions since 1973 has reached 58,586,256.

CULTURE OF LIFE (CONTINUED)

New Data from the CDC

Figures released in November 2015 by the CDC show that the number of abortions are continuing to drop—by an additional 4.2% in 2012. That means more than 31,000 fewer abortions in just one year's time.

Abortion rates and ratios, which are very helpful for understanding the background, also continued to show declines. Conclusion? More and more women are rejecting abortion as a solution to unexpected pregnancy.

Relying on reports from 47 state health departments, the CDC reported 699,202 abortions for 2012, the lowest figure the agency has recorded since 1973, the year the Supreme Court first legalized abortion on demand. This figure, however, does not include abortions from California, the nation's most populous state, or from New Hampshire or Maryland.

By contrast The Guttmacher Institute surveys clinics directly and does have data from all fifty states. Their last report showed more than 219,000 abortions for the three states missing from the CDC's totals.

Guttmacher's more aggressive search obtained a figure 1.06 million abortion for 2011. The CDC's 2012 data is an indication that the national figure has dropped further, but it is difficult to say precisely how much.

In the states that the CDC did survey, it found an abortion rate of 13.2 abortions for every 1,000 women aged 15-44 years. As for the abortion ratio, the CDC found that there were 210 abortions for every thousand live births.

To illustrate how large the drops are consider this. The CDC's abortion rate was 25 per thousand women in 1980 (almost twice as high as 2012) and the abortion ratio it reported was 364 abortions per thousand live births in 1984.

Down Across the Country

A look at the state-by-state totals confirms not just the depth but the breadth of the decline. Declines were seen in 38 out of the 47 reporting states, some significant.

While abortions dropped 4.2% across the board, declines of 12.2%, 13%, 16.2%, and 39.6% were seen in Virginia, New Jersey, New Mexico, and Maine respectively.

There is no single cause that can explain every drop. During the time frame involved, Virginia debated safety regulations for clinics, New Jersey and Maine both had budget cuts that caused clinics to close, and New Mexico finally saw its high abortion totals, which lagged behind the rest of the country, begin to fall. Long-term educational, legislative and outreach efforts have surely played a role in many states.

Most of the increases in the few states that did see higher numbers were minimal. For example there was an increase of 9 abortions in Nevada, 37 in Delaware, 39 in Wyoming, and 70 in North Dakota.

However even in states where there were larger increases, such as Massachusetts (1,036) and Illinois (1,944), earlier trends or later data indicate these are temporary fluctuations in what are in fact longer-term declines.

Down in All Age Groups

In other encouraging news, abortion rates appear to be down across all age groups, but especially among younger women. The latest CDC figures show declining rates for every age group between 2011 and 2012. Teenagers 15-19 led the way. That demographic experienced a 12.3% drop in just one year, from 10.6 abortions per thousand to 9.3 per thousand. Women with the highest abortion rate—those ages 20-24—had their rates drop from 25.2 to 23.6 in just a year's time.

All told, teens 15-19 saw their rates drop 40.4% over the past 10 years measured (2003-2012). The abortion rate for women 20-24 dropped 24.4% and rates for women 25-29 fell 10.1% over the same time period.

And even while women over 40 saw their rates increase 7.7% from 2003 to 2012 (due to the increased prevalence of prenatal testing for conditions like Down syndrome?), even that group saw a decline of 3.4% from 2011 to 2012.

CULTURE OF LIFE (CONTINUED)

Abortion ratios

Abortion ratios— the number of abortions for every 1,000 live births— were down in all age groups, too. This is very important because it indicates that women who become pregnant are more likely to choose life for their babies than any in the past four decades. In the past ten years (2003-2012), abortion ratios fell for all groups.

The greatest decline was among 15-19 year olds, dropping from 378 abortions for every thousand live births in 2003 to 310 per thousand in 2012.

Those under 15 years old (which have accounted for just half of one percent of the total abortions or less in the U.S. since 2006) still had a high ratio of 817 abortions for every thousand live births. But even their abortion ratio was down 3.9% from the previous year.

More early, more chemical abortions About two thirds of all abortions (65.8% in the states reporting gestational data) were performed at eight weeks gestation or earlier. [Gestational age is reported according to clinician estimates in some states and calculated according to a woman's last menstrual period in others.] More than half of those performed at eight weeks or less, or 38.2% of the total reported by gestation, were performed at six weeks gestation or earlier. This surveillance report shows this as the highest percentage of abortions performed at six weeks or less in the past ten years studied (2003-2012).

Not surprisingly, given the increased percentages of abortions at lower gestations, the numbers and percentages of chemical or “medical” abortions were higher. More than one in five (20.7%) of abortions performed at eight weeks gestation (or earlier] were listed as “medical” abortions by the CDC. (“Medical” is code for chemical.)

These are the highest figures the CDC has reported for this type of abortion since the government allowed the abortifacient mifepristone (RU-486) to go on the market in September of 2000. Chemical abortions at greater than eight weeks accounted for an additional 1.1%.

Seven in ten abortions (69.5%) were first trimester “curettage” abortions and an additional 8.7% were curettage abortions performed after 13 weeks. This would include suction aspiration abortions performed up through about 16 weeks and dilation and evacuation or D&E “dismemberment” abortions performed after that point.

States which did not report gestational age reported nearly 33,000 more curettage abortions and more than 10,500 additional chemical abortions. Only a handful of abortions were performed by intrauterine instillation (146) or hysterectomy/hysterotomy (79) in 2012.

Race and Ethnicity

Getting a handle on the race and ethnicity of aborting women can be difficult. States employ different criteria for measuring each characteristic, so that a single state might report three different numbers for, say, Hispanic abortions in three different charts for the same year. Add to this that many of the states do not report any racial or ethnic data at all (including not just California and Maryland, listed earlier, but large states such as Florida and Illinois, as well

as Washington state, Arizona, Massachusetts, and the District of Columbia). Cumulatively this makes identifying “the” number or percentage of abortions to a given group for a given year well nigh impossible, though data exist.

With that caveat, Table 12 of the CDC's report for 2012 shows a breakdown of 37.6% abortions in 26 states which did include ethnic data were to white, non-Hispanic women, 36.7% to non- Hispanic black women, 7% to “other” non-Hispanic women and 18.7% to Hispanic women. Other tables place the percentage of abortions to black women as high as 40.5% and the percentage to Hispanic as low as 17.4%. But it is clear by any counting that minorities are much over-represented in the statistics relative to their population.

Back in Table 12 again, the abortion rate for Hispanics is nearly twice (15 abortions per thousand women of reproductive age) what it is for whites (7.7 per thousand). The abortion rate for blacks (27.8) is nearly four times that of whites.

CULTURE OF LIFE (CONTINUED)

Repeat abortions and previous births

Close to half (44.2%) of women having abortions have had at least one previous abortion. Eleven percent report two previous abortions and 8.6% report three abortions or more. What may be more disturbing is that nearly six in ten (59.8%) report having already previously given live birth to at least one child.

Marriage and Mortality

Married women accounted for just 14.7% of abortions in the 36 states reporting marital status, with 85.3% of aborting women being unmarried. Mortality statistics are always a year late for the CDC, but this report indicates that two more women are known to have died from legal abortions in 2011. Ten others were known to have died in 2010. All told, the CDC has recorded 424 maternal deaths from legal abortion since the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision.

Despite claims that chemical abortions offered improved safety, maternal abortion deaths appear to have gone up since their approval.

What the numbers tell us Every life lost to abortion is a tragedy. That there are fewer than there have been for nearly forty years is good news, but that there are still so many is an indication there is much work yet to be done. The latest statistics from the CDC strongly suggest we have been very successful in reducing the prevalence of abortion among teenagers. This is encouraging, and not just because of the lives saved. Observing data over the long term, this would suggest a generational shift in attitudes and actions surrounding abortion—that is, that a woman will be less likely to abort not only in her teen years, but also as she grows older.

Abortion rates are still uneven when it comes to race and ethnicity

Abortion rates have fallen across the board, but black and Hispanic women are still considerably more likely to abort than their white counterparts. More pro-life outreach clearly needs to be done to these minority communities. Abortion too often appears to have become accepted in some quarters, with nearly half of abortions being repeat abortions. Moreover too many mothers to already-born children are turning to abortion rather than giving birth to another child. The availability and awareness of realistic alternatives to abortion are critical to these communities.

Chemical abortions are on the rise, with more women aborting earlier and using chemical methods. Abortion center are big boosters of chemical abortifacients because it enables them to expand their abortion business at minimal cost and effort. But, as noted, they do not make abortion safer for women and certainly do not make it safer for their unborn children. That there are hundreds of thousands fewer abortions today than there were ten, or even twenty years ago is proof that pro-life education, legislation, and outreach make a difference.

Keep informed, stay active, and expand the outreach so that more and more lives are saved.

LifeNews Note: Carol Tobias is the president of the National Right to Life Committee.

FOOD FOR FAMILIES

It is with His grace that I wish every brother, council and parish community happy and spiritfilled New Year. Last fall, when the Holy Father visited the U.S, he celebrated the “family” in Philadelphia. In this fraternal year, the Supreme office is focusing on the family. Food for Families centers on the family. The founding of the Knights of Columbus centered on the family. Meal time in most cases unites families and facilitate communication and check-ins amongst family members. In this year of mercy in our Church, charity, unity and fraternity is more visible and practical in what we do as members of the Knights of Columbus.

Blessed Fr. McGivney with the assistance of 20 men from his parish chartered the Knights of Columbus with emphasis on charity, unity and fraternity. Charity is defined as the voluntarily given help to those in need which Council 12832 exemplified in their annual: “Feeding Families” drive. Council 12832-Mint Hill, as at our founding, demonstrated that families stand at the core of Knights of Columbus (KofC. Org). They collected three trucks of food totaling 10, 012 pounds (5 tons) which they donated to Catholic Social Services, Charlotte and Missionaries of the Poor in Monroe who distributed the food to families in the Charlotte and Monroe areas. Council 12832 also received \$1,505 in grocery gift cards which were also given out to families.

The families that received the foods collected by Council 12832-Mint Hill shared the state of being united or joined as a whole-Unity as they came together to share in the meals. Unity as a part of our Order was brought home to several families through the work of Council 12832 in their Feeding Families drive. I would in fact attest that most of the families that received the grocery gift cards joined as a family to go grocery shopping.

Council 12832 typified the state or feeling of friendship and mutual support in the group through coming together as one parish community for the feeding families drive. Before Our Lord Jesus Christ ascended, He asked Peter if he loved Him. When Peter answered that he does, Christ said take care of my sheep. Our order through Peter, our church’s first Pope, and as at our founding charged us to take care of God’s children. Food for Families brings the Order’s programs together because none of the programs can function on an empty stomach. Food for Families provides fullness, strength and focus. Food for Families aligns the charges of our Order-charity, unity and fraternity.

FAMILY LIFE DIRECTOR

The Holy Family in Our Own Lives

Being Family Director, it was indeed a privilege serving as Lector at Mass on the Feast of the Holy Family. My assigned reading from the Book of Sirach was made all the more poignant with the passing of my mother just six months prior.

Borrowing on my Baptist upbringing, I took notes during the homily. (Yes, they do that – really!) Father Jean-Pierre made a point of emphasizing the need to remain in closer contact with our parents as they age, the need to visit them, to call them and to give them a priority when they need our love the most. If they are in a care facility, can we bring a meaningful or useful gift? Could we bring flowers to brighten a drab life of routine? Can we bring treats to liven up a diet of institutional food? Just as important, we can insure they receive Communion, the divine food which strengthens us spiritually.

Let's step back a moment and picture our Lord assisting St. Joseph as he grew older and less capable. And how profoundly would Jesus comfort His Blessed Mother upon His stepfather's death? Imagine, too, Christ taking up the trade of carpentry to support Mary in the period before beginning His Ministry. That was a skill His stepfather carefully taught Him over the course of many years and its correct practice reflected not only on Jesus but Joseph as well. And, yes, the things we do in our own lives from day to day reflect not only on us but on our Heavenly Father as well.

So, how many things have we taught our own sons and daughters and grandchildren on a one-on-one basis? When was the last time we sat down with them and demonstrated a task or shared our knowledge, our experiences, our unique insights, our inspirations and dreams? And what have our children learned from our Example? That's not be just how to do tasks but how to think, how to act, how to value, how to have compassion, how to love, how to respect themselves and others. And how to Believe! How much have those lessons and examples become a part of who they are as persons, as our children and as children of God?

Icons of the Holy Family are now touring our state. I feel certain the choice of icon is by design as our Supreme Knight has been steadily emphasizing the need to strengthen our families and thus our Church, during the past two years. The suggestions I've posed here are just a few of the sorts of things he challenges us, as Knights of Columbus, to promote within our families and within our Faith communities. Let us then welcome the visit of those icons and what they represent into our parishes and let us ever strive to emulate the examples of Jesus' earthly family.

Viva Cristo Rey!

Fred Burton

NC Family Director and NC Silver Rose Chair



FAMILY/COUNCIL/ASSEMBLY SOCIAL EVENT

Let me stick my neck out and present something a bit different – an opera! This will be convenient to those of you in the Charlotte-Gastonia area and might provide a unique night out for a married couple Or perhaps take it one step further and make it a Council or Assembly social event!

Winthrop University is presenting Francis Poulenc's opera, "Dialogues of the Carmelites" on the weekend of February 26th through 28th with performances at 7:30pm Friday and Saturday and 3:00pm on Sunday in Tillman Auditorium on their Rock Hill, SC campus. Admission is only \$15 and you may contact them at 803-323-2255 for tickets and information.

So why am I promoting an opera at an out-of-state public venue? Because this is a skillful dramatization of how a community of Carmelite nuns was caught up in the furor of the French Revolution. You remember the musical, "Les Miserables" - that was a big hit, right? Think of "Dialogues of the Carmelites" as being equally compelling but set in an earlier era with a powerful statement about Faith. As has happened in many political upheavals since then, new laws forbade the practice of Christianity and sought to prohibit its public devotion by believers. The nuns courageously chose to continue following the vows they had taken rather than the laws of the new regime. There were consequences which they unanimously accepted in Faith. Spoiler Alert? I'll just say this has what has been termed the most soul-searing conclusion in all of opera.

Should you plan to attend, know that Rock Hill's restored downtown is about a mile away and has a collection of trendy restaurants and bistros that will nicely complement an evening or afternoon at the opera. I shall leave it to you to check those out.



And, yes, I plan to go!

Fred Burton, NC Family Director

LAMB

Brothers All,

Most people like to know that their efforts are appreciated. Along those lines, one of the recommendations in the LAMB Manual is to offer Certificates of Appreciation to those that assist our LAMB efforts, for example Store Managers. The certificates are easy to print up; you can buy a nice frame at Walmart etc. all for \$5.

As an example, below is a recent press release sent out by Greensboro



Knights of Columbus Council Presents LAMB Award

On Wednesday Nov 18th, the St. Pius X Knights of Columbus presented it's L.A.M.B. Certificate of Appreciation Award to Ben Curry, the manager of the Harris Teeter located on Pisgah Church Road in Greensboro. Our Knights Council has, over the fourteen years of Ben's management at that location, solicited Harris Teeter patrons on behalf of the LAMB Foundation. LAMB is an all-volunteer, non-profit public charity whose sole mission is to assist people with intellectual disabilities. Over these years, Ben has not only accommodated our efforts but made us feel welcome. This well-deserved



recognition of his support is long overdue.

Lastly, we continue to close out the 2015 LAMB Campaign. As I write this (January 25th) we have still not received forms of any kind from 54 Councils, which is 54% of all Councils that did LAMB. So if your Council is one of those, hopefully they have been sent by the time you read this.

Vivat Jesus,

Richard M. White, State LAMB Director

VAVS - VETERANS AFFAIR VOLUNTARY SERVICES

Greetings Brothers and Grand Knight,

Vivat Jesus!

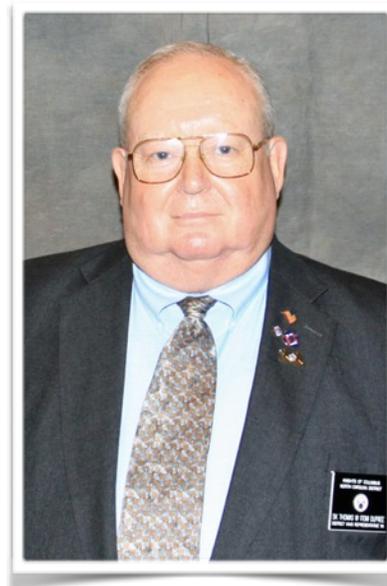
I hope that you and your family were not adversely affected by our first major winter storm of the year. The month of January is always a busy month for the leadership in preparing the end of year report (form 1728). This year for the first time you had an additional responsibility in completing the North Carolina Annual Activity Report (VAVS) and Veterans Affairs Report for 2015. Under the principle of Charity and Patriotism, your Brothers and you the GK have been requested to support the needs of our Veterans and active Military to the best of your ability. To accomplish this challenge, it is necessary to plan and budget for the many programs that we in NC promote and support.

In the past several months, we have provided new coats for needy Veterans at all four VA Medical Centers. With the cold winter weather, these coats provide warmth for those that are homeless or in need. On behalf of them, I send to you a warm thank you. You will never know how much they appreciate your kindness.

Reporting of Activities in Support of our Veterans: Each District was asked to appoint a VAVS Representative/Director for his District. I have had the privilege and honor to represent you for the last 3 ½ years. One of my major challenges has been to document what you and your Council Brothers are doing to support our VAVS Programs. The reporting of your activities and donations are required to be reported to the State Deputy, District Master, Vice-Supreme Master, Supreme Master and Supreme. This documentation can only be accomplished with your support, GK. I again ask for your support in the year 2016 to do a better job of recording the hours, activities, and man power given. This will allow you and the VAVS Representative to meet the requirements of reporting. Supreme uses this information for their annual report to IRS. Again, THANKS TO THOSE WHO HAVE ASSISTED ME IN CAPTURING THE DATA NEEDED FOR THIS REPORT IN 2015.

VAVS Representatives and Deputy Reps: Each VA Medical Center (4) is required by Department of Veterans Affairs (NAC) to appoint a Representative and up to three Deputy Representatives. I currently need Representatives at each of the four VA Medical Centers. I am looking for a “few good men” who have the passion to assist me in “Serving Those Who Served”. If interested, please contact me at twdupree@aol.com or 919-302-5550. I will gladly meet with you to discuss the VAVS position and its programs. I would like to thank my current Representatives for all their time, talent and treasure they have given in support of our Veterans.

Communications: I use the Golden Plume and Tar Heel Knight each month to communicate with you the needs, as requested by the Chiefs of each VA Medical Center and the Directors of the USO who need our assistance. It is important that you distribute these two newsletters to your Brothers in a timely manner each month by emailing to your membership. Yes, they are on the websites but you and I know they will not go to look for it!



(Continued next page...)

VAVS - VETERANS AFFAIR VOLUNTARY SERVICES

36th National Veterans Wheel Chair Games (NVWG): These will be held in Salt Lake City, UT June 22-July 2, 2016. For the past eight years, the Knights of Columbus have supported the athletes/Veterans who attend these Games. The goals of the NVWG are: 1. Improve the quality of life for Veterans with physical disabilities, 2. Promote greater independence and functional skills through wheel chairs sports and recreation, 3. Provide education and training for clinicians, specializing in treatment of spinal cord injuries/disease, amputations, MS and neurological disorders, 4. Initiate camaraderie by matching newly injured Veterans with returning Veteran Athletes, who have previous participated in the Games. These games are supported by the Department of Defense and hosted by The Dept. of Veterans Affairs and Paralyzed Veterans of America. This is the largest program of its kind with over 500 Veterans/Athletes participating. The 4 VA Medical Centers will select eligible Athletes who can participate in the Games by April 15, 2016. They need our support! We have been requested to assist these Veterans financially by providing some of the funds for their hotel and transportation to the Games. The estimated flight is \$350-450 and the hotel accommodations is \$1,000 per week with two Veterans sharing the room. Last year we sent around 30 Veterans. I am asking for your financial support to assist these Veteran Athletes. If each Council and Brother would consider making a financial contributions, the Knights will be successful in sending ALL of these worthy Veterans to the Games. These Games open a new world to our Veterans. Many thought of ending their lives and once they have attended, they realize their life is not over-it just changed.

Please send checks to the following Brother SK Jerry Cucurullo, FC, 6208 Heacham Ct. Raleigh, NC 27614. Your Council will be given credit for your donation. Make CHECK PAYABLE: ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI ASSEMBLY 3552 MENO: VAVS/Wheel Chair Games/Assembly #. Any questions, please contact me. Additional information available at : www.wheelchairgames.org I'm available to make a presentation for your Council.

New Healthcare Centers(HHC) Fayetteville, Kernersville, Charlotte: These brand new facilities are in need of volunteers. They need greeters, patient escort, refreshment cart, clinical administration clerk, information desk, my Health EVET kiosk, check-in kiosk, travel claims, pharmacy, lab runner and Oint. If you are interested in applying, the application will be posted on the State website under Fourth Degree, VAVS Programs or contact me.

Kernersville HHC ribbon cutting will be 2-26-2016

Charlotte HHC ribbon cutting will be 4-4-2016 but opening will be 3-4-2016.

Needs: All VA Medical Centers are in need of sweat pants, gift cards (Walmart, Target, grocery chains, restaurants, venues for entertainment i.e. movie theaters, plays, concerts, sporting events etc...

The VA does not provide funding to allow the staff to take our Veterans who live in the Community Living Center, (CLC) or those suffering from PTSD. This allows the Veteran to socialize and to experience activities to enrich their lives.

Won't you please help?

If you are doing a social function at your parish, please consider inviting these Veterans to join you in fellowship.

Again, thank you for Serving Those Who Served.

SK Thomas W. (Tom) DuPree Jr. PGK, PFN, VAVS Representative Durham VA

North Carolina District VAVS Representative VA,

North Carolina State Council Veterans Affairs and VAVS Chairman

Time Period: January 1, 20__ - December 31, 20__

Due by January 31st. (Choose one category.) **EACH COUNCIL AND ASSEMBLY MUST SUBMIT A REPORT.**

Assembly/Council:	Location: City/Town, NC
Include Council/Assembly number.	

Please type or print eligible. Use black ink. Complete numerical data from right to left. Include financial contributions and hours of community service from all related programs. Make a photo copy of survey report for your Council/Assembly file.

1. Number of meetings held during the year	2. MEMBERSHIP: (COUNT)	3. BUDGET: CHECK ONE					
Regular _____ Social _____ Special _____	<table border="1" style="display: inline-table; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td></tr> </table>				<table border="1" style="display: inline-table; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 30px; height: 20px; text-align: center;">YES</td> <td style="width: 30px; height: 20px; text-align: center;">NO</td> </tr> </table>	YES	NO
YES	NO						

4. BUDGET FOR VETERANS AFFAIRS/MILITARY/VAVS

\$				
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5. DO YOU DISTRIBUTE THE TAR HEEL KNIGHT? YES _____ NO _____

DO YOU DISTRIBUTE THE GOLDEN PLUME? YES _____ NO _____

6. WHICH V A MEDICAL CENTER DO YOU SUPPORT?

DURHAM V A MEDICAL CENTER	
ASHEVILLE V A MEDICAL CENTER	
FAYETTEVILLE V A MEDICAL CENTER	
SALISBURY V A MEDICAL CENTER	
NONE	

7 DO YOU SUPPORT USO? YES _____ NO _____ (PROVIDE DETAIL INFORMATION)

8. PROGRAMS:

	YES	NO	AMOUNT
NATIONAL WHEEL CHAIR GAMES			
GOLDEN AGE GAMES			
NEW COATS FOR VETERANS			
WOUNDED WARRIOR PROGRAM- M.O.P.H.			
GIFT CARDS			
SWEAT SHIRTS/PANTS			
VETERANS RESTORATION QUARTERS			
Brother Participation: Hours			
NO VETERAN DIES ALONE			
Brother Participation: Hours:			
Sponsors Sporting Events, Picnics etc...			
Visitation with Veterans Include hours	Nursing H.	Retirement Community	Medical Center
OTHER:			

Signature of FN/GK _____

Date _____

Send to: SK Thomas W. DuPree, Jr.
2419 Hidden Meadow Dr.
Fuquay-Varina, NC 27526

NC District VAVS Representative
NC State Veteran Affairs & VAVS, Chairman
twdupree@aol.com 919-302-5550 (cell)